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No. 2608

CONTENTS

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

United States, West, Israel Excoriated on Lebanon Issue (Editorial; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 7 Aug 82).....	1
Kuwaiti Paper Interviews Palestinian Army Commander (KUNA, 16 Aug 82).....	2
PFLP-GC Leader Hails Syrian Decision on Fighters (Damascus Domestic Service, 13 Aug 82).....	4
Saudi-Based Fatah Official Discusses Lebanon (AL-RIYAD, 12 Aug 82).....	6
Problems of Overseas Investments Discussed (Rabah Munir Shaykh al-Ard; AL-DUSTUR, 19 Jul 82).....	7
Briefs PLO Funds	12

ALGERIA

Energy Minister Discusses National Development Philosophy (Belkacem Nabi Interview; RINASCITA, 2 Jul 82).....	13
--	----

EGYPT

Confrontation Between Government, Opposition Over Change (AKHBAR AL-YAWM, 29 May 82).....	18
Elimination of Undersecretary's Position Discussed (Husayn Ramzi Kazim; AL-AHRAM, 20 Jul 82).....	24
New Scandal Unearthed on Tunnel Beneath Suez (AL-AHRAR, 5 Jul 82).....	27

Professional Unions' Political Involvement Questioned (Muhammad Salamah; AL-SIYASI, 4 Jul 82).....	28
Briefs	
Palestinian Exile Government	31
Al-Islambuli Release Rejected	31
Lawyers Oppose Union	31
IRAN	
Khamene'i Claims Iraq Is Planning New Aggression (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 24 Jun 82).....	33
Minister Reports Increase in Electric Power Output (Hasan Ghafuri Interview; KEYHAN, 4 Jul 82).....	36
Tudeh Chief Kianuri Cited on Khomeyni 'Antiworker Line' (PRAVDA, 10 Aug 82).....	39
New Literacy Measures Undertaken (Hojjat ol-Eslam Qara'ati Interview; KEYHAN, 22 Jun 82)...	41
Male, Female Vacationers Warned To Observe Islamic Rites (ETTELA'AT, 30 Jun 82).....	43
IRAQ	
Envoy on Peace Efforts, Baghdad Conference (AL-JAZIRAH, 4 Aug 82).....	45
Briefs	
Ambassador to Sudan	48
JORDAN	
Daily Praises Egypt's Stand on Palestine Issue (Editorial; AL-DUSTUR, 4 Aug 82).....	49
KUWAIT	
Daily Praises Joint Yemeni Initiative (Editorial; AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, 4 Aug 82).....	51
Briefs	
Aid Offered to Somalia	52
Agreement With Saudi Arabia	52
LEBANON	
Moves To Establish Strong Central Government Discussed (Gassam Biram; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 10 Jul 82).....	53

Israel Resorts to 'Vacuum Bombs' in Lebanon (Voice of Palestine, 10 Aug 82).....	57
Briefs	
Israeli Reparations	58
Residents in Haddad-Controlled Zone	58
South's High Unemployment	58
 LIBYA	
Briefs	
Patrol Boat	59
New Airport	59
Soviet Military Purchases	59
VIP Plane	59
Executive Planes	59
Tripoli Airport	60
 SYRIA	
Defense Minister on Lebanon War (AL-BA'TH, 1 Aug 82).....	61
Envoy on Relations With U.S., USSR (AL-SIYASAH, 7 Aug 82).....	63
Opposition Front: Damascus Conspired Against Resistance (AL-DUSTUR, 9 Aug 82).....	65
Diplomat Praises Soviet-Supplied Weaponry (PAP, 12 Aug 82).....	66
Arab Socialist Union Pledges Support for al-Asad (Damascus Domestic Service, 13 Aug 82).....	67
Briefs	
Israeli Spy Executed	68
Arab Socialist Union Statement	68
Muslim Brotherhood Activity	68
 TUNISIA	
Government, Teachers' Unions Reach Agreement (B. Ammar; LE MAGHREB, 22 May 82).....	69
 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	
Newspaper Calls for Jordanian-Syrian Stand (Editorial; AL-KHALIJ, 17 Aug 82).....	72

Data on Foreign Workers, Population Statistics Outlined (AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI, 26 Jul 82).....	73
---	----

Briefs

President Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi	78
Zayid Meets Kreisky in Geneva	78

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Second Annual Conference for Expatriates Supports, Encourages Unity Efforts (AL-THAWRAH, 21 May 82).....	79
--	----

Need for Riyal Devaluation Discussed ('Abd al-'Aziz al-Saqqaf; AL-THAWRAH, 8 May 82).....	90
---	----

Relative Population Densities Reported ('Abbas Fadil al-Sa'di; AL-THAWRAH, 8 May 82).....	93
---	----

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES, WEST, ISRAEL EXCORIATED ON LEBANON ISSUE

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 285, 7 Aug 82 p 11

[Editorial]

[Text] This barbaric war which the most aggressive state in modern times is waging against Lebanon and the inhabitants and buildings of Beirut has taught us three lessons:

The first lesson: The noble-mindedness, freedom, brotherhood, and equality which we presume exists in the West does not really exist. While we see the Western world meeting 48 hours after Britain's declaration of war over the Falkland Islands and depriving Argentina of food, clothing, water, medicine, arms, and funds, we see this world today doing nothing vis-a-vis Israel which in turn has done nothing so far but slaughter Lebanese and tear up their country.

The second lesson: Israel wishes to create a precedent the likes of which the history of mankind has not seen; and history has not witnessed a state which demands "peace"...by means of war. All states and empires which have sought peace through war have lost the peace, lost the war, and lost their land as well.

The third lesson: The superpower, the United States, still assumes that the Arabs are "dumb" or are at the level of animals, and so, as long as they are at the level of animals, it's all right to beat them because beating animals does not arouse compassion or reactions. America has not cared the least bit that these "animals" have been providing it and its Western allies with wealth and the essence of the life which Americans and Westerners live. It wished to sell out 22 Arab states, i.e., one-sixth of the world and the richest area in the whole world, for an aggressive, predatory, barbaric state whose only capital is that it confronts the Arabs with American arms, not with brave men.

The experience to be gained from these lessons is that the only losers in this destructive war will be Israel and America. If it isn't today, then it will be tomorrow or the day after the day after tomorrow, we shall see with our own eyes how the Americans will pay the price for what they have done.

As for Israel, our struggle with Israel it is historic and will be no more than that.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS PALESTINIAN ARMY COMMANDER

LD161334 Kuwait KUNA in English 1045 GMT 16 Aug 82

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Aug (KUNA)--Commander of the Palestinian Liberation Army Col Tariq al-Khadrah has said Israel is seeking justifications to continue its occupation of Beirut, a fact that leaves the Palestinians there with the only option of facing until death or victory.

In an interview, conducted in Damascus, and published here Monday by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper, Col Khadrah stressed that America and Israel have placed the Palestinians in a self-defense position which necessitates a Palestinian steadfastness.

He said the Israeli invasion has targeted the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance, crippling the Lebanese national forces and inflicting heavy losses on the Syrian Army in prelude to the establishment of a pro-Israel Lebanese Government that accepts to join the Camp David accords on the Middle East.

Moreover, he went on, Israel has started diverting course of Litani River, a move that signals old schemes to occupy that region.

Questioned about the role of the Palestinian Liberation Army (PLA) in the fight against the Israelis in west Beirut, Al-Khadrah said the PLA was entrusted with protecting crucial sectors such as the port, the museum area, Galerie Sim'an and Al-Hadath area.

He underlined that contacts were continuous between the command of the PLA units in Damascus and troops fighting in west Beirut and that orders were carried out most efficiently and that the fighters' morale was very high.

After 52 days of Beirut encirclement, the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces, together with the Syrian units have (?inflicted) heavy casualties on the Israeli troops as such forcing the Israelis to give up plans to storm the city, he added.

Asked to comment on reports that Syria did not allow the Palestinian resistance to launch military operations against Israeli positions from mountainous areas under Syrian control, the PLA commander said these reports were unfounded adding that the Syrian Army is (?wholeheartedly) with the Palestinian resistance in its fight against the Zionist invaders.

To further explain, he cited commando operations behind the Israeli (?lines) which the Syrian forces covered and protected the advance of the Palestinian fighters.

In a reply to a question whether the PLA has received any material support during the battles, he said "We are trying to re-organise this army but support is being received from the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Syria only."

Asked about the present political negotiations aimed at evacuating the Palestinian fighters from Lebanon, he made it clear that the main points were the timing of the deployment of the UN observers in west Beirut and the evacuation of the Palestinians and guarantees to secure the safety of the Palestinian refugee camps.

Al-Khadrah highlighted, however, that despite the fact that the proposals contain some concessions without sacrificing west Beirut, they might be rejected by Menahem Begin who set a deadline for the Palestinians to evacuate.

On the Arab stand on the Israeli invasion, the Palestinian commander regretted the Arab inaction and silence at a time when even the Israeli civilians in Tel Aviv staged demonstrations in protest against the brutalities of their own army in Beirut.

He also deplored that there have been attempts to undermine the Syrian participation in battles though Syria was the only Arab country to come to the rescue of the Palestinian resistance.

Meanwhile, Al-Khadrah lauded the French and Greek stands on the Israeli invasion and said the European attitude toward the Palestinian question has taken a turning point.

He paid tribute to the French initiatives in support of the Palestinian question and highly valued the European condemnation of Israel in the UN.

Asked to explain why Syria does not receive as much Soviet material support as Israel receives from the United States, he made it clear that there was no ground for comparison between the two cases.

He further clarified that Zionism greatly influences the American policy to the extent that [word indistinct] the limits of a strategic pact between Israel and the U.S., because it is the Zionist lobbying that governs the American economy and administration.

On the other hand, he went on, "We find that Syria and the Soviet Union are only linked by a friendship treaty while Syria is not a member of the socialist bloc."

CSO: 4400/425

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PFLP-GC LEADER HAILS SYRIAN DECISION ON FIGHTERS

JN130818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], praising Syria's stand toward the Palestinian revolution. The following is the text of the cable.

Your pan-Arab stand as expressed in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional command's decision to receive the Palestinian fighters, who have held out in Beirut against the Zionist aggression and the Israeli military clique for about 70 days during which they fought valiantly alongside their brothers in the Lebanese national movement and the brave Syrian forces, has greatly impressed our fighters and came as a true expression of a genuine pan-Arab stand that was and is still the essence of Syria's political moves under your leadership. It came at a time when colluding regimes claiming Arabism met with the aims of the Zionist invasion and the American-Zionist-reactionary desire to annihilate the resistance, eliminate the Palestinian revolution and disperse its cadres and infrastructure.

Mr President: We were not at all surprised at your pan-Arab decision. We were confident that the strong relationship and cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and Syria could not be split. We were confident that this relationship would only get stronger and act as a means to thwart the enemy's aims behind its invasion of Lebanon. It has been a clear fight from the beginning that the enemy's most important aim was to break up relations between Syria and the Palestinian revolution so that each of them could be singled out in an attempt to impose a capitulatory settlement by force. On the basis of this understanding and throughout the days of the invasion we kept stressing the need to foil this aim with further cohesion and coordination of stands with Syria and even with the unification of stands between Syria and the Palestinian revolution.

The reactionary regimes and imperialist circles have tried several times to ignore this historical and fateful relationship between Syria and the resistance. They have even tried to jump over this relationship, make use of our wound and stretch bridges with Husni Mubarak's regime which has capitulated and completely fallen in the lap of Zionism and imperialism. Not even the death and destruction of the heroic Lebanese people and Palestinian resistance

in Lebanon has moved this regime's Arab feelings. Moreover, it has tried to exploit the siege in order to drag the resistance to its course and its capitulation, supported by other regimes. These regimes have tried to bargain over the siege of Beirut in return for our relinquishment of our principles stands, hinting at what they termed simultaneous recognition of the enemy and its occupation of Arab Palestine. However, the steadfastness with which all these attempts were met foiled and shattered their schemes.

Mr President: Your noble decision to receive the Palestinian fighters has exposed all plotters as well as all those who kept silent or displayed impotence. Greetings to you, Mr President, from all the PFLP-GC fighters, the Central Committee members, our comrades in the Political Bureau and from me personally. Greetings to the noble Syrian Arab people and the heroic Syrian Army.

CSO: 4400/425

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

SAUDI-BASED FATAH OFFICIAL DISCUSSES LEBANON

GF130510 Jidda AL-RIYAD in Arabic 12 Aug 82 p 1

[Nasir al-Sudayri dispatch]

[Text] Fatah's representative to Saudi Arabia Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, alias Abu Shakir, has emphasized that the Zionists are trying to wreck any Lebanese-Palestinian agreement and they are looking for pretexts to keep their forces in Lebanon.

In a statement to AL-RIYAD he said that whenever the Zionists feel that a Palestinian-Lebanese agreement [has been reached] they intensify their shelling of Beirut, and this indicates that they look for any pretext to keep their forces positioned to continue their occupation of Lebanon. He added that they do so to extort political and financial advantages and to complete the remaining part of the Zionist plan to create sectarian states throughout the area.

On the efforts exerted to hold an Arab summit conference shortly, Abu Shakir said that he does not expect the summit to be held at present. He attributed this to the fact that some of the countries do not favor holding this summit due to the deteriorating situations which the Arab countries are experiencing which would affect the atmosphere of any summit that is convened. Abu Shakir expressed regret that because of the grave situations of the Arab world, Arab leaders have not been prompted to adopt a position that corresponds to the gravity of this stage.

On the Egyptian-Palestinian relations, Abu Shakir said: "Our goal is still clear. We want the Egyptian leadership to dissociate itself from all the negative effects of the Camp David accords and to support the aspirations of our people in achieving their national goals. At this stage, we have demanded that the Egyptian administration oppose Israeli aggression. Egypt has reacted positively toward us."

Concluding his statement to AL-RIYAD, Abu Shakir pointed out that the Lebanese Phalangist gangs will greatly regret welcoming the Zionist invading forces. He pointed out that the Israeli invading forces will disarm the Phalangist gangs and they will face the same savage treatment meted out by the Israelis which the Lebanese and Palestinians are now receiving.

CSO: 4400/425

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PROBLEMS OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS DISCUSSED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 243, 19 Jul 82 pp 36-37

[Article by Rabah Munir Shaykh al-Ard: "The Flight of Arab Oil Revenues: Economic Necessity or Suicide?"]

[Text] Oil Surpluses

One of the most important measurements of wealth, or more specifically, the growth of wealth, is the surplus that is available for investment in a certain period of time. A surplus is the difference between what is produced and what is consumed, or it is the difference between revenues that are produced from product sales and expenditures that are incurred to purchase needs. One of the most important economic phenomena of the modern age in the process of accumulating wealth in the various economies of the Arab homeland is the growing visibility of the so-called oil surplus.

Arabs began having an oil surplus in the middle of the last decade despite the fact that poverty had become widespread among broad sectors of their population. Besides, the productivity of the Arab work force was declining; the countries were suffering from a "brain drain" and from the immigration of skilled workers; and the real economic gap, in terms of the means of generating wealth, between the various Arab countries--including those that export oil and natural gas--and the advanced western countries that consume the oil and gas was growing. The flight of Arab funds out of Arab countries heightened the sharpness of the contrast between the fact that wealth was growing and backwardness was continuing. It was particularly those Arab funds that were generated by oil surpluses which fled the Arab countries in search of "better" investment opportunities. These surpluses had come into existence thanks to "the rebellion by the oil countries" against the fact that foreign companies had been exploiting oil and natural gas in these countries, acquiring these resources for small amounts of money that were worth less than the value of the exported oil. The particular aim of that rebellion, the oil rebellion, was to stop the useless waste of growth opportunities that were available to the Arab homeland from the sale of these resources--and I am not saying this wealth. These opportunities for growth were economic, social and cultural. The oil rebellion led to a rise in the level of real spending in some countries of the Arab homeland. It also led to an increase in monetary inflation that affected all sectors of the population.

However, instead of being complete and positive in every aspect, the rebellion wasted other opportunities for growth as a result of the fact that "the surplus" generated by oil exports in a number of Arab countries was taken out of the country. Mr 'Ali ('Utayqah), secretary general of the Arab Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] felt compelled to criticize this serious phenomenon. In a lecture he delivered in January 1980 he described Arab surplus funds in striking terms. He said, "I do not call these funds surplus funds. I consider them part of a depletable resource that has been replaced. Instead of continuing to exist as oil under the ground, these resources have been turned into paper and figures in record books in the form of deposits. Because of increased spending and a reduction in purchasing power, these resources began to shrink." This oil expert suggested that the solution lay in 'taking [a course of action] that would be more likely to serve the interests of the Arab homeland.

Mr ('Utayqah) said, "I believe that it is better for any country to try to convert its accumulated cash into means for real development. But this requires the oil sector and other sectors as well to have a comprehensive and a common outlook so that opportunities for joint Arab investments can be made available by increasing the capacity of the economies of oil countries to accommodate more activities. The more growth manpower and basic facilities in these countries experience, the more possible it will become to convert these funds into ways that would recycle wealth. This is because the ultimate needs of these countries exceed the funds they have." Mr ('Utayqah) criticized people who view our cash-laden Arab oil countries as rich countries that can do without their funds and can dispose of them abroad. "This is not true. These countries need the funds that have been converted from real wealth into cash. Although they may not be able to spend this cash now, they will be able to do so in the future, if they undertake to do what is necessary for real development. Accordingly, these funds must not be considered savings."

There is no major distortion of the truth in the statements made by this Arab official. The flight of surplus oil funds from a country does not help the development of that country's resources; that was where these surpluses developed. But doesn't the departure of these funds provide them with some kind of temporary protection until investment opportunities in the Arab homeland grow, God willing, and these funds can then be returned and spent on one or another of that country's sectors? Isn't the flight of these funds justified by the considerable difference in the interest rates paid on bank deposits in the principal oil countries and the interest rates that are available abroad, especially now in the United States? Recently, this matter caused an acute shortage in liquid funds in these countries.

According to the British newspaper, THE FINANCIAL TIMES, such thinking led capitalists in 1979 to take out of Saudi Arabia's private sector between 3 and 5 billion dollars. These funds were deposited in "financial shelters" in western countries despite restrictions imposed on the foreign currency market in Saudi Arabia by the government of that country. However, the flight of oil surplus funds is also tied to the official investment policy that is being practised by some oil countries, such as the creation of a special fund in Washington which earns no interest to finance the armaments program. The flight of oil surplus funds is also tied to the policy of using the U.S. dollar to price oil exports. As a result of that policy the monetary agency in Saudi Arabia, for example, is compelled to keep 75 percent of its holdings abroad in U.S. dollars.

Officials were forced recently to confront this problem. After the U.S. dollar was devalued in relation to other currencies and in the aftermath of the U.S. government's position on Iranian funds, the value of the dollar rose again. How long, however, will this "American respite" continue?

Mr Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance stated that the creation of a large surplus was not consistent with our economic expectations. This means that oil revenues have to be reduced or spending from those revenues increased, one way or another. Meanwhile official circles began showing a serious desire to diversify their investments "in accordance with the nature of what oil countries with surplus funds ought to do." Mr Aba al-Khayl also said, "Isn't there despite that a problem that has to do with making investment choices, with the purposes of investment and with the wisdom behind the investment choices we make?"

Dimensions of the Problem of Foreign Investments

The best way to explain the dimensions of this problem may be to compare the volume of the gross national product, that is, total goods and services produced by one country in 1 year, with the volume of oil surplus funds. Recently, the gross national product in the entire Arab homeland amounted to 206.3 billion dollars. The gross national product of Arab oil countries in the same year [?] was 156.7 billion dollars, or 76 percent of the total. These two figures could illustrate the picture in any one of the past few years. Accordingly, in the last 5 years average annual oil surplus funds leaving the Arab homeland amounted to about 75 billion dollars. Last year that surplus declined to 66 billion dollars. In 1980 it was almost 121 billion dollars. This figure is three to four times as large as the gross national product in poor Arab countries.

It may not be useful to cite the recent energy crisis and the over-all recession which has beset the industrial western world to indicate that oil surplus funds are declining. The question that is being asked now is this: What have the Arabs done with previous oil surplus funds? We know that these funds were spent in the Arab homeland to raise per capita income by one fifth or one fourth. Spending the surplus in oil countries only would have increased per capita income by one fourth or one third. Spending the surplus in poor Arab countries only would have almost doubled per capita income or perhaps increased it one and a half times. No matter where the surplus funds would have been spent, there is no doubt that surplus funds that come from oil exports are the antidote for the stagnation in Arab life.

The increase in wealth that results from investing oil surplus funds abroad makes the principle behind such investments, regardless of the justifications for it, utterly irrelevant.

Economists who do not promote colonialism agree that the consequences of oil countries taking about 450 billion dollars of their surplus funds out of their countries since the onset of the oil rebellion until today are grave. This amount is twice as much as everything that is produced in the Arab homeland in 1 year before anything is consumed. It is three times what oil countries produce and one fifth of what the United States produces. An economist said, "In economic analyses, crop failures diminish those resources which a nation can exchange immediately [for other goods and services]. However, spending money in foreign

countries on railroads and mines, for example, freezes these saleable resources without creating an immediate counterpart for them. Accordingly, these resources are temporarily consumed by such spending and cannot be recycled. Thus a nation's saleable resources, that is, those resources that may be sold and exported, are irreversibly diminished.

To a certain extent this situation is similar to the over-all economic decline that Britain is suffering from today. This decline began in the fourth decade of the past century. Britain's decline was due to the fact that its capital was sent out of the country in search of profit, gain and interest. However, the condition of Arabs who have oil surplus funds is much worse than that of the British. This discrepancy is not due to the restrictions that are imposed in the West on Arab investments. Nor is it due to the dangers that threaten these funds, in so far as the ability of host countries to appropriate them and the effect that fiscal and non-fiscal disturbances in those countries would have on their value. The precarious condition of oil surplus funds abroad is rather due to the fact that most of these funds are invested in real estate and in banks, not in industry. Consequently, growth of these funds would come about as a result of fluctuations in trading and speculation in real estate. These are the weakest areas of the economy over the long term. This explains the fact that, in general, Arab investments are short term. Also the fact that host countries are subject to economic disturbances requires that vengeance be extracted from these funds or that their effects be curbed.

Statistics of Britain's Central Bank show that oil countries invest in the United States three times the funds that they invest in Britain. Oil countries invest in all other countries an amount of money that more or less equals their investments in these two large western countries. In 1978 investments were channeled into other countries, excluding these two. Most of these investments were bank deposits, foreign currency deposits and government money certificates. This analysis reveals that oil countries whose economic structure is poor lend funds to the governments of Britain and the United States whose economic structures are wealthy. This reveals the importance of political considerations in determining the purposes of investment.

The validity of analyzing these political considerations is by no means certain, just as analyzing economic considerations is not. The least that may be said in this regard is that influencing the economies and policies of the United States and Britain requires consideration of how exercising that influence will affect foreign policy. How will the funds invested in the two countries exercise that influence and how much clout and importance will that influence have compared to the relative magnitude of these investments? There is much doubt about both considerations.

With regard to influencing economic activists and affecting their decisions which are highly competitive, or more correctly monopolistic, private Arab investments make up no more than 1 percent of all foreign funds invested in the United States, according to U.S. treasury statistics. This one percent is represented by the direct acquisition of banks and real estate or the purchase of treasury certificates and stock in U.S. companies. Nevertheless, recent trends show that there is growing U.S. opposition in the government and outside government to allow Arabs to make further investments in the United States regardless of the

motives behind those investments. Such opposition is due either to specific economic thinking or to the existence of a psychological climate that is anti-Arab.

With regard to influencing political activists and affecting their decisions, which are likely to promote selfish national interests and colonial considerations above all else, investments by Arab governments cannot exercise more influence when under the control of these western countries than they would if they were under the control of Arab countries on their own turf, especially since these oil countries have to sell oil and natural gas to obtain the revenues they need to spend at a rate of 93.9 percent of their exports.

Until those who are responsible for the Arab economy think of exporting goods other than oil and natural gas, until they raise the standard of the Arab worker's productivity and his scientific and technological knowledge, the effort to influence others will always stem from the need that others have for utilizing Arab resources. It will not stem from positions of real economic power. It may be that recent events in Lebanon and OPEC's inability to repeat the "miraculous achievements of 1973" are the best indications of the fact that, as long as social, cultural and economic forces in the homeland are still weak and backward, political forces in the Arab homeland do not ultimately constitute anything more than a grand illusion. Declining to call things by their proper names and to confront matters truthfully will not help dispel this illusion. Will the Arabs be distracted from their homeland by [illusions of] immortality, or will they be distracted from immortality by [the realities of] the homeland?

8592

CSO: 4404/587

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

PLO FUNDS--According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the PLO has recently transferred \$2 billion from the Arab Bank in Beirut. One billion was transferred to French banks and the second billion to several European banks.
[Text] [NC060545 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Aug 82]

CSO: 4400/425

ALGERIA

ENERGY MINISTER DISCUSSES NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

Rome RINASCITA in Italian 2 Jul 82 p 28

[Interview with Minister of Energy Belkacem Nabi by A.B.: "Development and Politics"]

[Text] [Question] Algeria has made a great deal of progress along the road of development and economic independence: Would you review the stages for us?

[Answer] The Algerian Government's primary objective following independence was recovery of the national economy. In particular, it was decided to assign to the agriculture sector workers the responsibility for managing the country's rich land once owned by the former colonists. In addition to this, one of the main tasks was to reopen and develop the schools. Then various formulas were tried for cooperation with foreign interests in the industrial sector. Beginning in 1965, a start was made in restoring order to economic and social policy. Control of the banking system enabled us to mobilize financial resources for socialist development in accordance with the resolutions of the (1956) Summam and the Algiers Charter (1964). Later, we renegotiated our agreements with foreign oil companies. After the 1965 and 1971 agreements, Algeria now controlled, 8 years after independence, the key sectors: the banking system, exchange, and oil. The agricultural sector was given impetus by general application of self-management in all the land vacated by the colonists. On the cultural level, the process of Arabization was initiated. The 1970's witnessed the formulation of a development strategy to give the country an industry capable of producing the means for accumulation. The priority given to the industrial sector, and in particular investment, made it possible to establish a base for the industrialization process.

[Question] Then the fundamental choice in favor of industry as the leading sector has been maintained, though with a series of adjustments.

[Answer] For some time, Algeria has been following the theory that the industrial sector pulls the economy. We realize from experience that things are always much less simple than you believe, and that you have to adapt economic theory to the reality of a country which is facing many problems and of necessity has ties with the industrialized countries. We have concluded that development must be balanced and pay attention to both the agricultural sector and industry, to the social-educational system as well as to social infrastructure.

[Question] How do you plan to preserve your economic independence while obtaining the needed support of foreign capital and technology?

[Answer] Algeria in the 1980's must master the management techniques which will enable it to give concrete economic substance to the efforts and sacrifices in the industrial sector during the 1970's. At the present stage, this effort has the top priority among priorities.

[Question] The transfer of technology must involve also the risk of increased foreign dependence.

[Answer] If industrialization is not accompanied by an effort to master management techniques it becomes a process which increases dependency: It is not enough to invest, investment is not synonymous with development. In some cases, in the desire to give priority to investment, we have built factories but are now compelled to appeal for foreign technical assistance in order to operate them. The result: In the first place, the transfer of technology was not carried out or was done too slowly; and the resort to countries which could provide technical assistance added a new dimension of dependency; and, finally, the payments for the technical assistance canceled all the benefits of the investment. It turned out that with the payments in currency for the investments, and continued subsidies in currency to research, the result was a loss. Therefore, we must take action so that these investments become a factor in accumulating foreign and national currency. To this end, the Algerians must reassume control in order to profit from the productive effort of the preceding period.

[Question] Does this relate to the policy of exporting raw materials?

[Answer] In respect to minerals and natural gas, Algeria plans to reopen discussion of the present unfair trade terms. As a step in this direction, Algeria has been promoting the idea of a new international economic order, that is, a total overhauling of the relations between the industrial, energy-using countries and the countries which export energy products. Our policy on natural gas is a result of this determination to discuss the unbalanced economic relations between North and South.

[Question] The economic policy choices based on this development strategy are closely linked to international policy decisions. Is there a parallelism between Algeria's policy of development through progressively regaining control of its national resources and the principal of cooperation, as theorized and practiced?

[Answer] Given that Algeria of the 1980's is not the Algeria of the 1960's, and that a rigid development strategy is doomed from the start, the principles governing national economic development are political principles. The translation of these principles into economic terms must evolve along with the evolution of the country and the international context. Algeria's foreign policy thus reflects its fundamental objectives. All this leads us to adopt the positions you are aware of, based on the concept of nonalignment and on the friendly relations that we seek to develop with the entire international community in respect for mutual interests. In final analysis, it is a firm determination to establish peace in the world and in the area in which we live, for we know that without peace any development effort is bound to fail.

[Question] In any case, there is somewhat of a gap between objectives and achievements.

[Answer] I would say rather that there is a dialectic. Planning aims at modifying the national context, also taking into account the changes which have taken place during the preceding periods. It is a very clear process in which our development strategy is the result of a scientific analysis of the problems and recognition of the concrete realities and previous experience.

[Question] However, on the domestic front there are some very high social costs to be paid for this development. The last FLN congress was forced to acknowledge the resistance and deviations with respect to the proposed model.

[Answer] I do not think one can refer to deviations; rather, it can be said that the priority given to investment may have caused the leaders to neglect other sectors. It is not enough to build an automobile factory if the workers have no place to live, their children have no school, and if there is no hospital near the factory, etc. The investment must not be limited to the instrument of production but must encompass the entire infrastructure. This is the lesson we have derived from the past period, and the latest FLN congress decided that attention should be concentrated on the lagging aspects of the social and educational sector so as to create the conditions for rational use of the investments, without having to slow their progress.

[Question] Perhaps this is also the result of the recent reorganization of the party's program within the society.

[Answer] It was our purpose to build a state and a party. Seen in the light of experience, it has been difficult to achieve all the objectives because of the serious backwardness which Algeria inherited. The shortage, and low cultural level, of the cadres has meant that the best have been directed into administrative, management, and diplomatic tasks. One of the current objectives is to make the party the animator of the social and economic life.

[Question] In other words, greater popular participation in the party and in the mass organizations would be desirable? The strongest examples of participation in political debate have thus far taken place outside the party structure. I am thinking about the debate on the National Card and on the family code proposal.

[Answer] I understand what you are saying, but I must make clear that the FLN is an avant-garde and not a mass party; it includes the most active elements, who are not the majority. It is unquestionably up to the party to stimulate public discussion, and the mass organizations give the party its popular dimension. Therefore, there is no contradiction in the fact of nonmilitant citizens being involved in debate.

[Question] What is your view of the revival of a kind of Muslim integrism?

[Answer] I believe this is a phenomenon that transcends the Algerian context and involves the entire Islamic world. The question to consider is what should be the role of Islam and its support to development. The view of Islam in Algeria is not necessarily the same as in other countries. In our view, Islam is the religion of progress and social justice and is not incompatible with socialism. Islam contains the foundations of social equality, condemns the exploitation of man by man, and calls on each individual to better his situation: in final analysis, it makes man the sole repository of national sovereignty.

[Question] Yet in this Islamic movement are there not also signs of rejection of modernization?

[Answer] There is a debate on this issue. It is not so much a rejection of modernization as the desire to promote construction of a society which does not repeat the contradictions of Western society. This amounts to rejection of the contradictions of industrial development: delinquency, the crisis of the family, the decline in national solidarity, and individualism.

[Question] Don't you think that it includes more or less open criticism of some elements of Algerian society who live close to the ruling power and display the worst features of the Western way of life?

[Answer] Twenty years of accelerated development have produced phenomena of disequilibrium. In particular, there has really developed a "comprador" and parasitical bourgeoisie which does not participate in the national economic development. If you get to the bottom of things, you realize that it copies and amplifies certain social evils particular to the industrial countries: the taste for luxury and lavish spending, the search for easy profit, etc, in sum, the pattern that this bourgeoisie is trying to reestablish and reproduce in Algeria. Certainly nothing unexpected.

[Question] One further detail: Is the comprador bourgeoisie present only in the private sector or also in the public sector?

[Answer] The comprador bourgeoisie can exist in either the public or private sector, but the private sector as a whole is not parasitic. There are many Algerian private enterprises which participate positively in the development process; there are others that take advantage of the weaknesses in the administrative structure to unfairly enrich themselves. Steps are being taken against this phenomenon, which does not negate the private sector's positive contribution as a factor in production and development; a sector that respects the policy decisions, the plan priorities, and the law on workers' rights.

[Question] An agreement on economic cooperation has just been signed between Algeria and France; it is being cited as a model for cooperation with other Western countries.

[Answer] I can say that we have a very similar approach to that of the Mitterrand socialist government on North-South relations and the need to promote balanced relations without there being any desire of one party to dominate over the other. This agreement was based on that spirit.

[Question] Then one can say that you have come a long way from the Evian agreements till today.

[Answer] I really believe so.

9920

CSO: 4528/9

CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION OVER CHANGE

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 29 May 82 p 5

[Article: "Confrontation Between the Government and the Opposition Over the Issues of Change and Reform"]

[Text] It is a confrontation conducted by AKHBAR AL-YAWM between the opposition and the government over all of the questions pertaining to change in the country. Two of the prominent elements of the opposition participated in this confrontation. One was Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, active in politics, head of the leftist NPUG and former member of the Revolutionary Command Council. The other is journalist Kamel Zuhayri, a writer and dean of the Arab journalists, and former president of the Egyptian journalists. Two officials from the National Party participated on behalf of the government. They are both members of the political office: Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, Deputy Prime Minister, and Muhammad Rashwan, Minister of the People's Congress' and the Advisory Congress' Affairs.

The opposition asks: Why fear change? It's approaching.

The government answers: There must be given consideration to priorities in the process of change.

Kamel Zuhayri summarizes his understanding of change in the following points:

(1) Just as the state is working towards economic reforms by reviewing the economy's structure (e.g., emphasizing the public sector's importance, and the opening-up of production), it must also work towards political reform. It must also review the political structures of parties, the media, culture, and the granting of liberties. In this way it can motivate people in the country's construction and rid the country of its negative aspects.

(2) Any realistic look at our problems demands change. Change is inevitably approaching. Every reform that is put off only aggravates the crisis.

(3) Great changes have occurred during the last 10 years, some positive and some negative. The average age of the Cabinet in the last 10 years was 7 and one-half years. This is less than what occurred from 1923 to 1952, and from 1952 to 1970. So why is there fear of change now?

(4) Supporters of the status quo attempt to frighten officials and the people of change by opposing change to stability. It is impossible to maintain stability by resisting change, even if such change is wrong.

(5) The biggest mistake that the state could make is to emphasize reform in certain areas while ignoring others that need it, e.g., emphasizing economic reform while ignoring political reform. Sooner or later this will lead to failure of economic reforms.

The Government: The Economy First

The government responds to these points with the following:

(1) Muhammad Rashwan asks: Will Egypt's problems be solved if we grant freedom to political parties, despite the fact that there are tens of opposition parties in Egypt? Or will this lead to a reading of the fabric of society and to different trends and currents?

(2) Muhammad Rashwan says: Isn't it logical for us to say that we must focus all of our efforts on reforming economic conditions, and let complete freedom progress in a natural, calm, and gradual manner? With current conditions as they are, political reform cannot happen overnight. On the contrary, every political reform has appeared gradually, in accordance with the conditions in whose context it appears.

(3) The Minister of the People's Congress' and the Advisory Congress' Affairs vigorously rejects the idea that the people are passive, and that in the worst of times it used to sweat and toil in silence, without protest. But if what is meant by passive is mass display of acceptance of various elections, then this may be found to happen in even the most deep-rooted democracies. An important comment made by Muhammad Rashwan in this regard is that the 23 July revolution did away with mass passivity or indifference to politics, whose practice was confined to city-people of a particular class. But after the revolution, politics penetrated the countryside, and for the first time simple peasants entered various parliaments.

(4) The Minister of the People's Congress' and the Advisory Congress' Affairs also rejects the idea that any realistic look at our problems suggests the inevitability of change. He says that this is a pessimistic view that does not agree with Egypt's situation. Egypt is the most advanced Arab and African state.

(5) Muhammad Rashwan admits that great changes have taken place over the last 10 years. This was necessary because Egypt was going through a historic stage of transition from one regime to another. The new regime recognized several political parties where there had been only one recognized party under the old regime. It also recognized the new economic "opening-up" order. Changes of this magnitude have occurred more than once.

(6) Fikri Makram 'Ubayd says he understands the opposition to say that political freedom in any meaningful sense doesn't exist. This is far from

correct. Egypt is enjoying a period of prospering freedom that was unknown under absolutist rule, neither before the revolution nor after it.

(7) The deputy prime minister says yes, change does conflict with stability if the change is the kind desired by the opposition, i.e., comprehensive change in all areas in the fastest time possible.

(8) He emphasizes that there must be a consideration of priorities. He rejects the notion that the government focuses on reform in an area while neglecting it in others. He says that the state is intent on reform in all spheres, but that some consideration must be given to priorities.

(9) The deputy prime minister says that correct change is the change that comes about calmly, naturally and gradually in accordance with varying circumstances. Muhammad Rashwan asks whether the opposition can deny that change has taken place. Isn't the reappearance of opposition newspapers an indication of change? Isn't the direction of the "opening-up" policy toward production an indication of change? There is no doubt that our country is pursuing a course toward change, even if the opposition denies it.

The Opposition Says: Repeal those laws

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, head of the NPUG says: In democratic countries, freedom is the rule and restrictions are the exception. But in Egypt, the reverse is true. Muhyi-al-Din called for the repeal of the state of emergency, and of all laws restrictive of freedom, like the Ethics Law, etc.

Kamel Zuhayri adds that "shielding" the existing laws prevents any balance between the opposition's parties and the government party. Hence, the democracy desired cannot be achieved, nor can there be political equilibrium.

The Government Answers: Egypt's Security First

Fikri Makram 'Ubayd agrees with Khalid Muhyi-al-Din that freedom is the rule and restriction the exception, but he disagrees totally that, in Egypt, restrictions are the rule.

Fikri Makram 'Ubayd asks: Is there any basis for comparison between freedom in Egypt and freedom in the Soviet Union, for example? Or in any Communist country?

The deputy prime minister emphasizes that the freedom which everyone enjoys, whether in the National Party or in the opposition's parties, had never been enjoyed by citizens in the last 50 years.

As for repealing the state of emergency, Fikri Makram 'Ubayd says that Egypt's security is priority number one. As for the appropriate time for the repeal, that will be decided by the president who has assumed the major responsibility for preserving the country's security. As for the laws which the opposition complains of, such as the Ethics Law, practical experience has proven that this law is only used to combat perversion (pornography), and not against those with divergent political views.

Muhammad Rashwan, Minister of the People's Congress' and Advisory Congress' Affairs, rejects the opposition's claims that the current laws are effected without there being any balance between the opposition and the government. He says that if the parties of the opposition resolved to build up mass bases of support and proposal practical solutions to people's problems, it would achieve the balance it desires. But in the absence of this, it is the opposition's fault that it finds itself in its present position. It was the late President Anwar al-Sadat's desire to see a strong opposition party. President Husni Mubarak has the same desire.

The Opposition: Political Feudalism

In regard to the political parties existing in our country, Khalid Muhyi-al-Din and Kamel Zuhayri agreed on four basic points:

- (1) The political parties currently in existence certainly don't represent all the popular forces existing in our country. Therefore, most of the political forces in Egypt lie beyond the practice of democracy. Continuing to ban them from forming parties only pushes them to underground activity.
- (2) Most of the political parties currently in existence were created in a very artificial manner, from the top down, with the patronage of the state. We might say that they were created in the lap of the state.
- (3) According to the Law on Political Parties, the creation of any new party is forbidden without the approval of the government. This is a sorry state of affairs without parallel in any other country in the world.
- (4) The opposition totally rejects what may be called "political feudalism," i.e., the monopoly of certain parties by certain political factions on the right or the left. This is a strange situation.

The Government replies: Don't Destroy the Experiment

The government was not silent about these observations. On the contrary, it responded to them with four opposing observations of their own:

- (1) Fikri Makram 'Ubayd asks first about the criteria used by his opponents to support their claim that currently-existing parties don't represent the majority of the political forces in our country.
- (2) Muhammad Rashwan rejects the claim that the "political parties were created in the lap of the government." In our country, the government is a national government, not a legacy from the days of imperialism. The Minister of People's Congress' and Advisory Congress' Affairs adds: When the democratic experiment in our country began coming up with 43 political conferences, which threatened to become total chaos, the state had to intervene to protect the democracy from chaos. No one ever encouraged the opposition like the late President Anwar al-Sadat.

(3) Muhammad Rashwan says that the problem with those in the ranks of the opposition is that they have a single-minded understanding of the word "democracy," i.e., democracy in the Western European sense. And if democracy does not fit in with its Western European model, then they conclude that freedom doesn't exist in Egypt! This is clearly a mistake, because Europe's situation is different from that of our country.

(4) Deputy Prime Minister Fikri Makram 'Ubayd says that those who claim that it is not possible to form a party without the government's permission demonstrate that they haven't read the Law on Political Parties very well. Also, the judges who comprise the committee for forming political parties and reviewing their misdeeds are clearly and prominently great, former judges who don't belong to any party. Moreover, there are no restraints to prevent parties from pursuing their activities. On the contrary, there are rules in this regard to which the ruling party and the parties of the opposition alike must submit.

The Opposition demands: The Dissolution of the People's Congress

With respect to the reason for the opposition's demand that the People's Congress be dissolved, Khalid Muhyi-al-Din says that the main reason is that the Congress doesn't represent the people. That is because the parliamentary elections that were conducted in 1979 were rigged. For this reason he personally would like to see it dissolved, and that's why it is one of the opposition's demands. However, it is not a high-priority demand at the present time.

The Government: False Accusations

What does the government say in response to these dangerous accusations? Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, deputy prime minister, says: Even since parliamentary life assumed its modern form, many elections have taken place in which some won, and some lost. And after each election, protests were raised by those who didn't win for one reason or another, saying that the elections were rigged. The allegation that the elections of 1979 were rigged is a totally baseless allegation supported neither by reality or by truth. The elections were completely free. The biggest indication of this is the victory of those who broke ranks with the ruling National Party and refused to support the Party's candidates. They nominated themselves against them and defeated them. But they were loyal to the National Party and rejoined its ranks again.

Muhammad Rashwan says: The most dangerous thing of all is to hurl accusations without evidence. And to those who do so, we say: Shame on you. First present your evidence, speak sensibly and logically, and prove that your accusations are true.

The Opposition: Combat the Parasites

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din says that the condition for the success of the economic reforms and for overcoming corruption is to do away with parasites. Parasitism leads neither to genuine service nor real production that can add to

Egypt's income. On the contrary, it leads only to the benefit of a rich minority at the expense of the vast majority.

The Government asks: Should we Return to Nationalization?

The deputy prime minister says that the government is intent on fighting corruption and exploiters of the people, as our social order is based on an equilibrium between capitalism and socialism. It keeps the good and avoids the bad. And if what is meant is that Egypt's economy should proceed in harmony with the economy of the socialist countries, and apply the teachings of Karl Marx and Engels, then our people vehemently reject it. The socialist countries consider free trade to be parasitic activity, even if it is committed to honorable conduct. Or is what is meant the nationalization of this trade, the expulsion of capital from the country, and the ruin of Egypt, all in the name of "overcoming parasitic activity"?

Fikri Makram 'Ubayd cautions against glittery slogans mouthed by leftists. He says that hiding behind them is a return to the age of nationalizations, supervision, and confiscation of which the people have already had a bitter taste.

Fikri Makram 'Ubayd says that development is the norm of life. Change must be carried out if there is a need for it or a prerequisite necessity which demands it.

But as for the sudden, violent change which a minority demands by virtue of a hunch that such change may bring hope, that is a thing of the past which we are well off without.

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CSO: 4504/349

ELIMINATION OF UNDERSECRETARY'S POSITION DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Jul 82 p 7

[Article by Dr Husayn Ramzi Kazim, authorized representative of the Central Agency for Organization and Management: "Concerning the Elimination of the Position of Undersecretary"]

[Text] According to the data in the official statistics of the 1980-1981 general state budget, the total number of employed persons amounted to about 3.5 million. Of this number 2,474,000 persons were employed in the government sector, and 1.2 million were employed in the public sector. These workers were distributed among the various grades in the units of the state's administrative machinery, in local government agencies and in public sector companies.

Statistics also indicate that the number of undersecretaries in the government sector amounted to 766. This is 0.04 percent of the total general staff. There are 1,528 persons in high-level positions in public sector companies, and these positions are equal to the position of undersecretary. Those 1,528 persons make up 0.14 percent of the total general staff [in public sector companies].

If we were to consider all high-level positions in the government sector, beginning with those of the prime minister, the prime minister's deputies, the ministers, the governors, those in comparable grade levels, first undersecretaries, undersecretaries and general managers, we would find that they are 3,430 [positions]. This is 0.3 percent of all public personnel positions for all employed persons in the state.

Regarding the problem that has been raised recently about the considerable increase in the number of undersecretaries--an increase which is no longer consistent with the magnitude of the work force in the various units of the state's agencies--a probing and an analytical consideration of these statistics would indicate quite clearly the extent to which these estimates have been exaggerated. The ratio of all people who hold positions as undersecretaries in the government sector--and these are not more than 0.04 percent--is quite low when compared with comparable ratios of civil service workers in many countries of the world. This is based on the fact that the principle of good supervision is being applied. This principle ensures that when the organizational structures of units are being set down, objective proportionality is achieved between the number of people holding high management jobs and the total number of workers who

are distributed among various professional groups. That is, the larger the work force, the more essential it becomes to increase the number of supervisory and leadership positions.

Because the government wishes to curb the expansion in job classifications, to limit the creation of new leadership positions and to avoid overuse of the title of undersecretary, it came up with a plan to amend the provisions of the State Employment Act. This act stipulates that the job classifications of first undersecretary and undersecretary be replaced by the classifications special class grade and first-class grade. One position for an undersecretary is to be created in each ministry, but no provisions are to be made for it in the budget. The minister is to appoint someone from the ministry who holds a special class grade level position to serve as undersecretary for one term that may be extended.

Based on the premises of a democratic dialogue which is based on freedom of speech and expression, we are calling attention, from our own personal point of view, to the following points:

1. It may seem at first that the aim of this change was to create high-level positions in the various units and agencies of the state. The truth is, however, that this is merely a change in nomenclature. The fiscal provisions remain unchanged, and the special class level and first-class level positions have replaced the positions of first undersecretary and undersecretary.

2. The principal question is not one of changing names or coming up with new amendments to the law. The question is one of practice and application. The first-class level position is stipulated in Law No 48 for 1978--the Employment Law--which pertains to the employee system in the public sector. Despite this stipulation we find errors in application. High management officials in public sector companies call themselves undersecretaries and directors of marketing, production or personnel, etc. High management officials do that despite the fact that using these titles is improper and not provided for in the law.

3. The fact that an undersecretary may be appointed for a term that may be extended constitutes a major threat to the stability and regularity of business in ministries. This is a result of the fact that ministers are being changed at a higher rate, and this has obvious effects on the policies, plans and work programs which undergo alterations and changes when leaders are changed.

The idea of appointing a permanent undersecretary or only one undersecretary in a ministry is based on the principle that an undersecretary helps a minister pursue his specific functions. He examines all the units of a ministry except those that make up the minister's office. The exception to that would be to allow a minister to submit a memorandum to the prime minister requesting that another undersecretary be appointed. This memorandum is to include the justifications and the reasons for the change. Such controls would achieve stability, continuity and constancy in the execution of policies.

Finally, as long as we are talking about the excessive use of titles, we must refer to the fact that many of these titles that have recently become widespread are essentially incompatible with the facts. These titles are: governor and minister, minister and chairman of an agency, minister and chairman of the board of

directors of a bank, minister and president of a university, minister and president of an academy, and minister and adviser, etc. These titles are used in addressing those who hold these positions. People who use these titles do so to flatter and to ingratiate themselves with those who hold these positions even though these individuals do not use those titles to refer to themselves. It is those around them who use those titles. It were as though calling someone a minister will add rank and fame to that person and give him authority, power and strength.

Thus, since the position of undersecretary has been confined to one position only in each ministry, we expect that, in keeping with the execution of this policy, another title will be used to replace that of minister, such as special class level A or some other title so as to avoid confusion between a minister who is appointed to the cabinet and others whose grade level positions are comparable to the grade level position of a minister.

8592

CSO: 4504/428

NEW SCANDAL UNEARTHED ON TUNNEL BENEATH SUEZ

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 Jul 82 p 1

/Article: "Maps and Construction Documents on the Martyred Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel Have Disappeared!"/

/Text/ Experts in the Suez Canal Authority have discovered that the documents and maps bearing on construction of the Martyred Ahmad Hamdi tunnel linking the two banks of the Suez Canal and costing 105 million pounds have disappeared! It had been determined that the Suez Canal Authority would take charge of operating the tunnel.

At the first meeting the authority's experts held to discuss the methods for operating the tunnel, they discovered that the British firm Tarmac, which had taken part in the construction of the tunnel, left no maps, technical information or documents showing the tunnel's capacity or means for operating it!

The Suez Canal Authority got in touch with the British company and it became apparent that it was a fictitious company that was established expressly to carry out the project and was dissolved as soon as the work was completed!

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din, the prime minister, will be issuing a decree in a few days establishing an independent agency to operate the tunnel, now that the Suez Canal Authority has refused to do so!

It is widely known that a commission to construct the Martyred Ahmad Hamdi tunnel had been given to the Arab Contractors Company and that the company sent international firms an invitation to enter public bids in 1977. Forty-six international firms came forward and Arab Contractors formed a joint company with the British firm Tarmac, to which it gave the name 'Uthmac; it was awarded the bid for 31 million pounds, but, after work started, the company demanded that the price be raised to 105 million pounds, and its request was acceded to!

In April 1979 former deputy Mahmud al-Qadi presented a request for information to Dr Mustafa Khalil, the prime minister, before the People's Assembly on the reasons why the costs of constructing the tunnel had risen from 31 to 105 million pounds after 45 international firms had been eliminated from the bidding because their prices were above 31 million pounds. A famous quarrel then broke out between Dr Mahmud al-Qadi and Eng Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, the minister of reconstruction, in the People's Assembly chamber, and after that al-Sadat gave Mahmud al-Qadi a violent reprimand.

11887

CSO: 4504/402

PROFESSIONAL UNIONS' POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT QUESTIONED

Cairo AL-SIYAS^I in Arabic 4 Jul 82 p 6

/Article by Muhammad Salamah: "Unions and the Political and Party Game!"

/Text/ What is the position of federations and professional and labor unions on political and party activity in Egypt? What is the legal, professional and political situation?

What is the picture in professional and labor unions?

Are decisions made on a party basis or a national one? What are the justifications for that?

At the start, 'Abdallah 'Ali Hasan, secretary general of the Lawyers' Union and People's Assembly member, described the nature of the Lawyers' Union and its connection to political action. For many years, the lawyers played a substantial role in contributing to political and party issues, and these roles continued to be examined and reiterated from one generation to the next.

Differences in opinion are very normal and are not haphazard. The preceding generation was distinguished by a unique phenomenon, which was that disputes did not spoil personal affection over any causes, that everyone would express his opinion and that that would not affect people's personal relationships. The present generation is totally the opposite. Many people hold strongly to their opinions, indeed go so far as to be agitated, which is something the legal profession did not experience in the past. The reasons for this may be ascribed to the fact that many people have become preoccupied with political activity and have not become aware of the nature of the difference between the legal profession and politics.

'Abdallah 'Ali Hasan, the secretary general of the Lawyers' Union, acknowledged that from time it emerged to now, or until recently, the union was dominated by the Wafdist current specifically--in fact, it was a stronghold of Wafdist thinking, which always predominated in union formations, except in limited periods such as that from 1966 and 1975, when the Wafdist view was not in evidence in the union. That may be explained by historic circumstances and the positions the Wafd took before the revolution, especially since the Wafdists offered the union a great deal and defended it; this attracted other lawyers to them.

After 1975, people assumed diverse opinions, contradictions emerged, and marxist, Nasirist and Wafdist currents appeared, as did the Moslem Brothers, whose representation in the union council did not exceed one or two members.

Following its emergence, the National Party had a large following which, at the beginning, was a majority; after a time, however, this majority declined for professional, not political reasons. The party promised to issue a law for lawyers in legal departments, who were the majority in the general assemblies, but this law was not carried out. This induced lawyers to take sides with opposition parties although they did not follow a specific political line; this result in itself did not constitute support for any one party at the expense of another.

The secretary general of the Lawyers' Union stated "Every party has the right to express its ideas and points of view; although we have all propounded the slogan of 'the national nature of the union,' that slogan has not been applied. In every election, we lay emphasis on the fact that everyone belonging to a party must doff the party uniform when he enters the union, but unfortunately we have not committed ourselves to that slogan since 1966."

The Unions in Service of their Members

Muhammad al-Batran, member of the Lawyers' Union council, asserted that the professional unions were established essentially to serve their members and defend the rights of the groups included in their membership. However, with the developments that have occurred in modern societies, the unions have assumed an extremely central role which is not just restricted to defense of their members' interests but transcends that to defense of the interests of the society.

The Lawyers' Union has played a vanguard professional role, rising to all its historic national responsibilities. It has played a constructive role, which the new law on the legal profession has underlined. The unions must not slip into party issues, in the sense that the union must be the representative of all tendencies and not be aligned with a given party.

If the unions slip into fanatical adherence to the views of one party to the exclusion of others, that might drag the unions into issues and dimensions which can be dispensed with. However, that will not prevent some union members from presenting their ideas and opinions on developing their laws and the interests of their members.

The Unions Are a National Movement

While some professional unions are playing their union role and exercising their political vision from party premises, we find that the opposite is the case with the labor unions.

Muhammad Fahmi Badr, member of the council of the Federation of Labor Unions in Egypt and chairman of the Construction and Lumber Workers' Union, said "The unions are basically a national movement, influence in decisionmaking comes from union not party premises, and the commitment is to union principles and laws, as well

as the issues set forth for discussion. When limits on working hours are discussed, everyone is liberated from his party affiliation and conducts an objective discussion.

"The reasons for this may be attributed to the fact that the workers' union is basically aimed at tending to the interests of the broad base of the workers, who at the same time are of unknown political and party persuasions; how can one make decisions at the peak level in the party context while the base does not have the same political affiliation as this group does?"

Muhammad Fahmi Badr, member of the council of the Federation of Labor Unions in Egypt, referred to discrimination in treatment between professional and workers' unions. In the professional unions, the names of nominees to the council of the Lawyers' and Journalists' Union are not presented to the socialist prosecutor, so that he may state his views rejecting or giving agreement, in accordance with the latest laws, but they have followed this procedure with the labor unions. He demanded that the labor unions be left alone and stressed that some people might think that the attraction of professional unions is greater than that of labor unions because of infatuation with positions of prestige, which workers do not aim for, being concerned primarily rather with their social interests.

Wanted: an Independent Ministry of Commerce

The members of the National Democratic Party's secretariat of commercial and industrial activity have recommended the establishment of an independent commerce ministry to which a single department for general registration or specialized registration activities would be subordinate in addition to commercial agents' offices.

This emerged in the course of a discussion of a draft law on importers' registration under the chairmanship of 'Izzat Ghaydan which took place on eliminating the insurance condition, which involves 3,000 pounds. With respect to the remaining dues, the members recommended that they be double the dues collected for registering with the exporters' registry.

The members all also recommended that a committee be formed which would include representatives of the Council of State and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce to review importers' grievances on penalties assessed against them.

'Izzat Ghaydan stated that these recommendations would be presented to the secretariat general of the National Party for study.

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CSO: 4504/402

BRIEFS

PALESTINIAN EXILE GOVERNMENT--At its meeting last Wednesday the permanent council of the Liberal Party condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the brutal acts Israeli forces are carrying out against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. The council stated that it was necessary that the two Security Council resolutions on the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces be carried out. The permanent council underlined its agreement to provide every form of aid and assistance to the Lebanese and Palestinian people to alleviate the sufferings of the aggression and its destructive, painful effects. It urged the Arab countries to unify their strategies to cope with the situation. The permanent council supported the appeal the Egyptian government had made for the establishment of a Palestinian government in exile which would be in charge of Palestinian political action, as well as the Palestinians' refusal to leave Beirut before negotiations with them on just bases for a settlement began. The Liberal Party stressed that it would not enter any coming election campaigns in the context of the existing system and the absolute majority /of lists/. It stated that it was necessary to amend this system so that it would be based on lists with proportionate representation so that the elections would be proper and expressive of the people's point of view and attitudes. The party declared that it was necessary to modify voter registration charts, so that they would correspond to data in the civil registry, and to conduct the elections by identity or family card. /Text/ /Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 Jul 82 p 1/ 11887

AL-ISLAMBULI RELEASE REJECTED--The Abu Za'bal Prison administration refused to carry out the verdict of the administrative judiciary releasing the lawyer Ahmad Shawqi al-Islambuli. The administrative judiciary court had issued a judiciary decree suspending execution of the decree arresting Ahmad al-Islambuli because his son Khalid al-Islambuli had been accused of assassinating al-Sadat. The government filed a case before the urgent matters court demanding that the execution of the verdict of the administrative judiciary be rejected. 'Abd-al-Halim Ramadan, al-Islambuli's lawyer, filed a countersuit before the court of administrative justice to compel the government to carry out the decree it had issued releasing al-Islambuli. The court of administrative justice, under the chairmanship of Sa'd Abu 'Awf, accepted 'Abd-al-Halim Ramadan's case and issued its verdict rejecting the government's opposition to the execution of the verdict and the release of al-Islambuli, and Abu Za'bal Prison refused to carry out the verdict. /Text//Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 Jul 82 p 1/ 11887

LAWYERS OPPOSE UNION--Lawyers have demanded the restoration of legitimacy to their union and the elimination of Law 125 for 1981, which dissolved the board

of directors of the Lawyers' Union, considering it in violation of the constitution. The lawyers stated that it was necessary that the general assembly meet to re-elect a new union council under the supervision of a neutral committee. The lawyers asserted their rejection of all attempts to infringe upon or modify the provisions of the Law on the Legal Profession. The lawyers held a meeting in the headquarters of the Lawyers' Union in Cairo last Tuesday to discuss the legitimacy of the union board of directors in the wake of the resignation of Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi, the temporary union head, and the dissolution of the appointed council. Attending the meeting were Ahmad al-Khawajah, the former head of the Lawyers' Union, and the elected union council members. /Text/ /Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 5 Jul 82 p 1/ 11887

CSO: 4504/402

KHAMENE'I CLAIMS IRAQ IS PLANNING NEW AGGRESSION

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jun 82 p 26

[Text] A meeting of the Supreme Defense Council was held last night, chaired by Hojjatoleslam va Al-Muslimin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president, and attended by Hojjatoleslam va Al-Muslimin Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, Mir Hosseyn Musavi, prime minister, Gen Zahirnezhad, army chief of staff, brother Mohsen Reza'i, Revolution Guards commander, Col Salimi, minister of defense, Captain Afzali, naval commander, Dr Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, Engineer Gharazi, minister of petroleum, and Kamal Kharazi, chief of the War Propaganda Staff.

According to the same report, this session of the Supreme Defense Council began at 1930 hours and continued until 2200 hours. In the session there was discussion and an exchange of views concerning the imposed war and the aggression of the regime occupying Jerusalem against Lebanon, and conclusions in this area were made.

Ninety Percent of Qasr-e Shirin Ruined

According to the report, at the conclusion of the Supreme Defense Council meeting the president, in connection with the issues raised, said: A number of subjects were raised in this session, all of which were important. As usual, a report on the fronts was given which said that Abadan and other cities in the west were under Iraqi artillery fire. Abadan in particular passed a difficult day in this respect, for there was heavy artillery fire on that city. Also there was a report about Qasr-e Shirin. Aerial photographs of the city were shown, and it was pitiful to compare aerial photographs of the city before and after the war. I mean that nothing remains of this once prosperous city, 90 percent of the city has been ruined. The president added: There was exchange of fire on the western and southern fronts, and the Iraqis were busy transporting in the south and fortifying their positions in this sector. There were two or three topics concerning the Air Force and Navy. The commander of the Navy and several Air Force commanders participated in the session and made reports.

Decisions were made on issues concerning them. Also there was a report on several ministries connected with the Supreme Defense Council's work. Issues were raised and decisions concerning them were adopted.

Retreat in Tandem with Destruction of Cities

The president termed Saddam's statements about retreat insincere, and said: First of all, this retreat is not what they claim it to be. Everyplace from which they withdrew they destroyed. In the same way they ruined everyplace they entered when they attacked Iran and aggressed against our homeland's soil, and now everyplace they leave they ruin and destroy. They have done the same thing in Khorramshahr, Hovizeh, Hamid and other cities. They are doing the same thing in Khorramshahr, Hovizeh, Hamid and other cities. They are doing this in the western cities too. They almost completely destroyed Qasr-e Shirin, and you can be sure Sumar, Naftshahr and the rest of the cities in the west are in no better shape than Qasr-e Shirin. If they are telling the truth and retreating, in our view it does not mean that they are seeking peace. Iraq knows that if it continues the war, it will give up another 30 or 40 thousand killed or captured, and they will leave the country in that condition. To be sure, if Iraqi forces get into a battle with Iranian forces in the west or in any other location, they will not be in better shape than they were in Khorramshahr or the sector west of the Karun River. Supposing that the Iraqis do retreat, it is so that they can protect themselves from the immediate casualties the Iranian forces inflicted on them, and thus obtain sufficient readiness for a renewed inflicted attack on Iran.

Saddam's Claims of Retreat Are Lies

As I have said, this retreat on the whole is just a claim, and not a proven fact. Saddam has officially announced that he will retreat so that he perhaps can somewhat restore his lost political prestige in the world, and show a peace-seeking face to the countries that are speaking about peace. So far they have repeatedly made this kind of claim, but they have not been enacted.

Of course in regards to the claims that Saddam is making, our words are that when an aggressor enters another country, of course he must go back, and if he does not, they will push him back. We have demonstrated this since during 21 months the blows we have inflicted on them have so damaged them that in large part we have driven them back. However, this retreat is not the whole issue, the issue is that Saddam aggressed, and confessed that he has inflicted great damage, and the estimates of the level of damage are very high. Reparations must be made, and if not we will remain in a state of war with them. If Saddam's peace-seeking claim is true, such that they retreat, and their artillery fire does not pound our cities so much, and ten or twenty of their planes do not attack our cities every day' and they do not pound our populated and defenseless cities, when these things are done, then it can be said that Saddam does not desire war.

Iraq's Regime Looking for an Opportunity to Aggress

Until he ceases these actions, we cannot be sure that he is desirous of ending the war. Rather he is desirous of being given an opportunity so that he can garner political prestige, and at the requisite time, recommence his attacks.

In another part of his speech, the president said: We cannot remain in a state of not-war, not-peace while our cities are under continuous enemy fire because we are not taking reciprocal action. This means that we do not want

to pound cities in Iraq, and so far we have not pounded any Iraqi city, nor have we rendered people homeless or disturbed them.

Furthermore, they know that we are not doing this. Therefore we are forced to adopt policies to silence the enemy's fire, and we will carry out any action necessary to do so in this area. At the end, concerning the statements of Zionist and imperialist circles that Iran's aim in dispatching a force to Lebanon was propaganda, and that Syria does not desire war with the Zionist regime either, Khamene'i said: One does not expect anything but lies from Zionist circles, and if they do tell the truth one must be surprised. Therefore we are not surprised by these words of theirs.

Our Basic Problem Is the War with the Aggressor Ba'thist Regime

Syria desires to fight, and we have no doubt that Syria wants to fight with the Zionists and the tyrant enemy, and that it will fight. We have announced this before, and we have now proved it in action, and we hope, God willing, to prove much more than this. The president, pointing to the fact that we consider war with Israel to be a religious duty, just as the imam has pointed out, said: Our analysis is that they came and started up that war so that perhaps we would carry the main part of our forces over there. Of course we will never do such a thing, and we will never transfer the main part of our forces to Lebanon. Until we have ended the war here with Iraq we will not transfer our main forces there. Of course if this war is settled, we will definitely carry a major part of our forces there and we will settle the matter there. However, that portion of our forces committed to Lebanon are participating in the war, and will certainly strike blows. In conclusion, Khamene'i stressed: We have no interest in the propaganda effect of this action. It is a message of our revolution, and a requisite of our revolution that our revolution will not have attained total victory until action in occupied Palestine.

9597

CSO: 4640/384

MINISTER REPORTS INCREASE IN ELECTRIC POWER OUTPUT

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 82 p 2

[Interview with Minister of Energy Hasan Ghafuri]

[Text] The minister of energy announced that the Ministry of Energy does not disconnect water and electricity at the request of other organizations. In the past 2 years, the Ministry of Energy has provided electricity to one million new customers.

Iran will export electricity meters to other countries next year.

Dr Hasan Ghafuri, the minister of energy, in an interview with the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, first answered a question in regard to the rumor that the ministry will disconnect the electricity of those who have not paid their water and electric bills and said: "The Ministry of Energy, even at the request of other ministries, will not disconnect the water and electricity of its customers and this rumor is not true at all."

Dr Ghafuri in this interview, thanked Tehran residents for economizing their water use as a result of the request of the Ministry of Energy and added: "I appreciate that the people have trust in the authorities and employees of the Ministry of Energy and with God's will, if this condition continues, and Tehran residents continue saving water, we will not have any problems in the current year."

Dr Ghafuri added: "The Lar Dam capacity is to provide a maximum of one hundred megawatts of electricity and this amount in comparison with the 1600 megawatt consumption of Tehran is insignificant, but on one hand, this dam will be able to decrease the pressure of Tehran water network, and on the other hand, this dam could be used to provide needed water for farmer's use in the north."

He added: "The construction of Lar Dam is completed, but the pipelines of the dam are in the process of being finished and obtaining water will take 5 years. With the operation of this dam, it will provide 178 million cubic meters of drinking water a year for Tehran and 240 million cubic meters of water for agricultural uses."

Dr Ghafuri added: "Up to now, 99 percent of the construction of this dam and water flow, 99.2 percent of the installations of water transmission of Lar Dam to Gilan region, 99 percent of the pipes construction, and 55 percent of the construction of the electrical installations of this dam is completed. The important point is that even though the Muslim people are at war with the aggressor enemy and have defeated counterrevolutionaries with all their strength and have tolerated economic sanctions, improvements and development in the country are progressing in the best way and this is one of the prides of the Islamic Republic."

He added: "The electric power plants have increased 30 percent. During the last year around 400,000 new customers have received electricity and during the 2 years of 1980-1981, one million new customers have joined electric consumers throughout the country and now, on the average, 40,000 new units a month will receive electricity. The minister of energy about the Neka electric power plant said: "This electric power is made with four propellers but because of some problems we have not yet received them."

He added: "The Sarakhs gas has not reached this power plant yet but half of one unit of this power plant has the capacity of 200 megawatts working with gas."

Dr Ghafuri, about the reconstruction of the war regions said: "Immediately after clearing the war regions, the employees of the Ministry of Energy will be dispatched to these areas and will start their work."

He said: "The day after the conquest of Khunin Shahr, the Khuzestan office of water and power was established and our dedicated brothers and sisters started their work."

He added: "Our brothers, without any foreign aid, will repair most of the damaged lines and posts." The minister of energy, about the necessary equipment for reconstruction of the war region said: "In regard to the necessary equipment for reconstruction of the war regions, we are not worried, even in regard to equipment like electric meters, transformers and electric cables as we are in a good position." In this regard he said: "In the next year we could export meters to other countries and also could establish the production of new electrical equipment like ampermeters and voltmeters." He added: "In regard to making electrical distribution transformers we are almost self-sufficient and regarding energy producing transformers we will reach self-sufficiency very soon. An interesting point is the Iranian-made transformers are much better than eastern European transformers."

Dr Ghafuri, in regard to the joint projects of the reconstruction crusade and Ministry of Energy, said: "In the case of construction of water irrigation pipelines for agricultural use in Varamin and Garmsar area, Zarineh, Rud, Minab, Sistan and Baluchestan an organization consisting of the Ministry of Energy (chairman of this organization), minister of state in charge of Plan and Budget Organization, minister of labor and the minister of agriculture and reconstruction crusade is formed. The preparation for construction of these pipe channels has started in Sistan, and in Varamin and Garmsar, the studies are completed and the excavation will begin next month." He said: "In regard to electricity,

a joint committee with the reconstruction crusade is formed for coordination of the related affairs." He added: "Since the northern parts of Tehran have a high elevation, it costs much more for the Ministry of Energy to transfer water with electric pumps to the water reservoirs of this part of the city and the great costs are imposed on the treasury and the oppressed. It is fair and just that the customers of this part of the city economize in their water consumption and use piped water only for sanitary and drinking purposes. "Dr Chafuri also said: "Since the water pumps and water filtration plants are working with electricity, if they do not economize in their electrical use, their pumped water will be disconnected."

The minister of energy said this about the illegal use of water and power: "With the cooperation of the people, we will prevent the illegal use of water and power network and it must be emphasized that those who use illegal water and electricity cause a loss to the network, and users of free water and power, do it at the expense of the government and in fact the people."

9815

CSO: 4640/396

TUDEH CHIEF KIANURI CITED ON KHOMEYNI 'ANTIWORKER LINE'

AU111355 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 10 Aug 82 p 6

["(ZR)"-signed report in the column "What Others Are Writing About": "Class Contradictions Are a Reality"; passages between slantlines published in bold-face]

[Excerpts], The Austrian newspaper VOLKSSTIMME recently published a statement by Nureddin Kianuri, first secretary of the Central Committee of Tudeh, the Iranian People's Party, on the current situation in Iran; this statement was delivered during a public discussion. In its double issue NR. 7-8, the periodical WEG UND ZIEL then published Nureddin Kianuri's opinion on the role of Iran's workers class and its position and difficulties. [Passage omitted covered verbatim by paragraphs one through four of the first referenced item.]

/In his statement on Iran's domestic-political situation, published by the WEG UND ZIEL monthly, N. Kianuri proceeds from the difficulties encountered today by the workers class in Iran./ He states that the "antiworker line implemented by certain Iranian statesmen" is frequently criticized. The question crops up, "Why it is that in our revolution--while its leader, Imam Khomeyni, always spoke, and is always speaking, lovingly about the workers class and its role in the revolution, as well as about its role in the consolidation, stabilization and progress of the revolution--certain authorities...are pursuing a kind of antiworker policy."

/N. Kianuri calls the workers class the most loyal force of the revolution, both prior to the overthrow of the shah's regime and also later. It made the greatest sacrifices; for more than 70 years it has been fighting together with all the people against imperialism and exploitation in the country. "The Iranian workers and working people have felt on their own hide the double exploitation--by imperialism and by their own capitalism."/

The reason why the official government authorities, and particularly the ministry of labor and social affairs, have been pursuing an antiworker policy in spite of the historic merits of the workers class Kianuri sees in the fact that /There exist two streams in the ruling circles of the Islamic Republic of Iran: one is really linked to the people.... Following the line always consistently and clearly stressed by Imam Khomeyni and supported by the true followers of Imam Khomeyni; and the other one, which also professes

"allegiance to the Imam's line, is in reality very seriously engaged in maintaining the capitalist system in Islamic garb."/ Although the revolution has severely limited the opportunity for exploiting, deceiving and splitting the workers class, nevertheless one must state when walking along the streets of Iranian cities that the shops and firms have merely replaced American names by Islamic ones.

The other side of the coin shows that, contrary to other working professions, the workers do not have the right to set up their own trade unions. For instance, Minister of Labor Tavakkoli is demanding the expulsion of all members of Tudeh, the Iranian People's Party, and of the people's fedayeen from the plants; he claims that "Islam rejects class contradictions. Only social partnership exists in Islam."

N. Kianuri, the Tudeh party's first secretary, said in this connection: /"Even though the labor minister is claiming that no class contradictions exist in the Islamic society, this stubborn reality will not disappear. The class contradictions are, in fact, not a thing one can import. A class contradiction is simply the relationship between a worker and an entrepreneur, a capitalist owning the enterprise."/

If, on the one hand, the farmers have to eat grass to appease their hunger, and on the other hand the entrepreneurs are still dissatisfied with annual incomes running into millions of rials, this is an expression of the contradictions. Kianuri stresses that the workers class is a /reality of society/ and that "this reality is fighting, under every conceivable circumstance, for its vitally important and justified demands, for the elimination of its suffering. And it will continue fighting." That is also why the "organization of workers...is a historic inevitability and it will also pave its way."

On the pages of the Austrian magazine WEG UND ZIEL Comrade N. Kianuri then wrote that in future the majority of the workers class will consist of workers from the state sector. That is why the workers unions can play a significant role in "pushing through progressive state plans for achieving self-sufficiency and economic independence. To continue preventing the establishment of workers organizations means to aim at preventing the realization of these plans." /Should the responsible officials of the republic grasp that, by rallying the workers class, every system "which wants to be supported by the masses" becomes stronger, this would have positive consequences for the revolution./

In conclusion Nureddin Kianuri stresses: "The Iranian workers class probably has before it a path full of hardships, on which it will have to overcome many rigors; but those who believe that this historic process can be prevented by bureaucratic decrees, by violence and the use of state power are, in our opinion, the victims of illusion; they are greatly in error. This mistake will harm the progress of the revolution and will enable the enemy's lackeys to influence and deceive the working masses, this foundation of the revolution's power.

NEW LITERACY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Jun 82 p 6

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Qara'ati]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Qara'ati, the imam's representative in the literacy movement, in a short interview with KEYHAN, explained the previous problems of this movement and the main future program of the literacy movement. The interview, in question and answer form, is as follows:

Brother Qara'ati, in regard to his appointment to the literacy movement said: "My appointment as the people's imam's representative in the literacy movement was based on the fact that the great Imam has a representative in all the foundations like the crusade, the corps and martyr foundation. The literacy movement officials, in a meeting, issued a resolution and asked for a representative and mentioned my name among themselves and suggested me to the beloved Imam; since the Imam knew me he entrusted this holy responsibility upon me. I immediately ceased all my work in Qum and other small provinces in order to devote all my time to executing the Imam's order and started work in this sacred movement."

[Question] Has the movement been successful up to now?

[Answer] The movement officials were not satisfied with the movement's success for the following reasons:

1. Most of the people do not yet believe illiteracy is disgraceful.
2. The project lacked experience and the organization was not strong.
3. Its official authorities were under pressure with other work and naturally were not able to devote full time to this movement; but regardless of all this, have taught thousands of people to read and write and have made great sacrifices in this regard. Even the teachers in this dear movement have accepted teaching positions in the most remote and harsh climates of Iran where there are no roads for cars, with low salaries and even in some cases, free of charge. We ask God to reward these generous people.

[Question] What are the programs of this movement?

[Answer] After my appointment on the movement, we asked the centers of the provinces to invite the movement's councils and in a meeting in Khorramabad, all the brothers explained their suggestions, shortages and their projects and we made some notes, then we decided to gather all the teachers throughout the

country in the center of the provinces for the month of Ramedan and arrange camps and classes for those brothers and sisters and besides getting acquainted with them, also have discussions. The educational officials also decided to revise the movement's book on a simpler form and in the different meetings with the minister of education and his deputies and cooperation of the central council of the movement we have prepared a task force project and with God's will, we will announce it very soon.

[Question] Last week, you had a meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani. What did you discuss in this meeting?

[Answer] Since I had never had the opportunity to meet him, it was necessary to meet him and discuss the budget of the movement, compulsory literacy, and the participation of the high school graduate enlisted men in the movement.

[Question] What is the relation of different Islamic-oriented organizations (Nehad) with the movement?

[Answer] The relation between Islamic-oriented organizations has been fine, but as the people's imam has said, all the organizations, organs, government branches and all the people, must help more to eliminate illiteracy. I had some discussions in this regard with the Imam's representative in the crusade, Brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri.

[Question] Do you have a message?

[Answer] I don't have a message but the esteemed prophet has a message for the people which is, why, in a country whose prophet says learning is essential for every man and woman, do we have more than ten million illiterate? Why must the oppressor Israel be literate while lots of martyr-nurturing and dear people of Iran are deprived from learning to read and write? Why must millions of illiterate people be indifferent to the problem of illiteracy? Don't they know that our innocent Imam has said: 'God has made the scholars to promise to teach the illiterate and from the illiterate has promised to pursue learning.' Yes, in the country of the last Imam, the lord of ages "Imam Zaman," in a country which believes its leaders must be the most learned, must not have all these illiterate. This illiteracy is the inheritance of the shah's regime which spent the people's budget on ceremonies of 2,500 years of monarchy instead of building schools. But now that we are under the protection of Islam and a great leader, we must with utmost coordination and general mobilization, whose project will be announced shortly, eliminate the roots of illiteracy from our country and promote the respect of our revolution in the world and achieve God's consent and rejoice the lord of ages "Imam Zaman" and our beloved leaders.

9815/

CSO: 4640/396

MALE, FEMALE VACATIONERS WARNED TO OBSERVE ISLAMIC RITES

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 30 Jun 82 p 4

[Article: "At the beaches and sea shores, Islamic rites, especially the covering of the body, must be observed."]

[Test] Sari--ETTELA'AT Reporter--Brother Ruzbehi, Director General of the Islamic Guidance of the Mazandaran Province, in a short interview, answered the questions of our reporter in Sari.

First, with the arrival of the month of Ramadan he discussed the use of guest units, hotels and beaches:

"Recently, a meeting with the participation of the Friday Imam of Sari and representatives of the governor's office, the Islamic Guidance and Propaganda, Jihad Corps, Red Cross, and physical education organization, was held in the guidance offices. At this meeting, it was decided that a circular from the governor's office be sent to all the district governor's offices and city government offices of Mazandran Province to inform them that some of the guest house units be opened along the roads and near cities.

These unit's windows must be covered with curtains or patterned glass in order to prevent exhibiting pretentious eating during the month of Ramadan."

The Use of Sea Water

He added: "In the same meeting, in regard to the use of beaches, it was agreed that sisters swim in the morning and brothers in the afternoon. At the beaches and sea shore, brothers and sisters must observe religious rites, especially in regard to the covering of the body since Muslims cannot tolerate non-Islamic behaviour and they have repeatedly pointed out this question privately or by phone. In any case, we demand the implementation of this circular by all the responsible authorities and if they notice some non-Islamic behaviour on the beaches, they should notify the offices located at the beaches for legal action."

Selection of Caravan Director

Brother Ruzbehi, in regard to the pilgrimage to Mecca (Haj) and the selection of the directors of the caravans said: "Up to now, 31 directors of the caravan

/have been introduced to us by the pilgrimage organization but we have announced that even though the number of pilgrims has decreased from 5,000 to 3,800 still the number of directors are not enough, and a number of caravans lack directors, and they continue to contact us and ask to be registered in one of the caravans. I hope the pilgrims going to Mecca and pilgrim organizations compensate for the shortage of directors in order that anxious pilgrims going to Mecca will be able to register in one of the caravans."

He explained the reason for omitting four articles from the Article 18 circular as such: "The reason has been the increased number of pilgrims, the lack of ways such as air transport, and the non-acceptance of the Saudi Arabian Government since Iran Air was supposed to transport around 70,000-80,000 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. With the issuance of the 18 article circular, this number has reached 100,000 pilgrims. On one hand, Iran Air does not have the capacity for this number, and on the other hand, the Saudi Government was not willing to accept these many pilgrims since the Saudi Government has accepted the responsibility for housing and facilities of 80,000 pilgrims. Therefore, the brothers and sisters who were entitled to travel according to these four articles and have received the medical examination forms, must not be annoyed and must be concerned about the problems of the Islamic Government of Iran in hoping for the day when we can overcome all these obstacles."

Relation of Guidance with other Revolutionary Structures

The director general of the Islamic Guidance of Mazandaran said this about the relation of Islamic guidance with other Islamic structures: "The discussion of this question is not right in principle. I do not think that any revolutionary structure, God forbid, has incorrect relations with any offices since each one of us is part of the Islamic republic's body and must be side by side, shoulder to shoulder and attempt to achieve the goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Reconstruction of War Regions

In regard to the reconstruction of war regions he said: "In principle, the reconstruction of the war regions is the duty of each Muslim of our country, thus each one of the people of this land must share in driving away the Ba'thist aggressors and must share in the reconstruction of war damaged cities whether they are civil servants or businessmen. It is notable that one of the features of this revolution is that our nation does not consider itself separate from the government and its responsible authorities. It has happened in different instances that to fulfill a job, the people have taken the necessary measures before the government employees or the official authorities. It is natural that in such a country the responsible authorities get their messages and stimulation from the people and this is the secret of the permanency of this republic. Therefore, if the authorities mention or do not mention the reconstruction issue, the people themselves will start the reconstruction of the war regions and with God's help they will finish it very soon. Here I ask the brother students to take advantage of their summer holidays to spend their time in the reconstruction of the war regions."

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CSO: 4640/392

ENVOY ON PEACE EFFORTS, BAGHDAD CONFERENCE

GF061206 JiddaAL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 4 Aug 82 p 23

[Report on 3 August press conference held by Iraqi Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Shafiq al-Darraji in Jidda]

[Excerpts] Iraqi Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Shafiq al-Darraji revealed that a number of Arab states have come out on the side of Iran in the war and that other countries have made use of opportunities to prolong the war. On the basis of their ambitions in the Gulf region, the superpowers have also interfered. The Iraqi ambassador said that Iraq withdrew from Iranian territory to the international borders in order to give Iran's rulers an opportunity to evaluate the situation and put an end to Iran's justification for continuing the war. This was said by the Iraqi ambassador during his press conference in Jidda yesterday. He began by reviewing the stages of development in the Iraq-Iran war and said: There were legitimate Iraqi rights usurped by Iran. Iraq demanded these rights through political and diplomatic means and through negotiations, but Iran's rulers rejected all these peaceful means. Not only that, but they responded with repeated aggressions against Iraq, its borders, cities and villages. The Iranian news media began to hatch plots and called for rebellion in Iraq. The situation became intolerable and there seemed no way to stop the Iranian danger from expanding. Thus, this was how the war began.

The ambassador went on to say that some Arab parties entered this war and other countries saw it as an opportunity to be exploited and are working for its continuation in order to achieve their interests. The superpowers have interefered in an attempt to achieve their ambitions in the Gulf states. It is obvious that Iraq and Iran are not the only parties warring as a result of the interference of may other parties and this has caused a lot of changes in this arena. The Iraqi ambassador said: Iraq's defense of its territory is a defense of the entire Arab nation. Iraqi land is the land of all Arabs and is a part of this nation. It is the duty of every Arab to contribute to driving away the danger when it threatens any Arab land. What has happened is that a number of Arab countries have adopted stands which are contradictory to this. Iraq withdrew from Iranian territory to the international border to give Iran an opportunity to end all Iranian justifications for continuing the war. Iraq's continuous efforts are aimed at achieving results that take into account the interests of both sides and safeguard their legitimate rights.

The ambassador added: Our handling of the matter has resulted in the other side's failure to justify its stance as well as the failure of those Arab countries which have sided with Iran and insisted that Iraq is the aggressor while remaining deaf with regard to anything that Iraq says. They have stated that Iraq is still in Iranian territory, that Iran's revolution is an Islamic revolution and that it is Iraq which has occupied Iran. These are their justifications for supporting Iran. They have even stated: When Iraq withdraws from Iranian territory we will not allow Iran to go beyond the international border of Iraq or occupy any part of Iraq's lands. Now that Iraq has withdrawn to its international border, has there been any change regarding the stance of these countries? The ambassador answered his question by saying that there has been no change in the stance of these countries.

The ambassador said: Iran has put forth another justification by claiming that Iraq destroyed Iranian cities and villages. We say that the aggressor is the one who should pay reparations although there is no clause on reparations in international law regarding disputes and undeclared wars. In fact there has only been one such incident of reparation in history and that was following World War II. For example, who will pay reparations to Lebanon? Will it be Israel? Lebanon is not the aggressor, but aggression has been launched against it under eyes and ears of the whole world. So, who is going to pay?

The Iraqi ambassador said: We are indulgent with the Iranians and are giving them another chance. We say that any committee or court should decide who is to pay reparations. We have proposed many organizations such as the Islamic conference organization, the nonaligned countries and the United Nations, which are all recognized international organizations that can act as umpire and handle the matter fairly. What more can we do for Iran? The ambassador went on to say: We realize one fact: What today is war can be peace tomorrow. The current relations between Iraq and Iran will undoubtedly be changed into peaceful relations. Iran will remain a neighbor of Iraq and Iraq will remain a neighbor of Iran. This is a geographical fact. Since we are giving this chance to the Iranians, that is to the whole Iranian people and not only the rulers, we feel that Iraq is serious in bringing about a real opportunity for peace. But this obstinacy on the part of Iran's rulers is unwarranted and there is no longer a justification for refusing peace. However, since the aggressive spirit dominates and since there is an unbridled ambition on the part of the Iranian rulers to transfer their revolution, how could the situation be any different? After the ambassador's opening remarks, press and news agencies correspondents were permitted to ask questions.

Regarding the contents of the message, which the ambassador carried from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Fahd, the ambassador said that the message dealt with normal issues of mutual concern, bilateral relations and specific areas of consultation. Regarding the statement issued by a senior Iranian official for the first time regarding his country's readiness to negotiate, the Iraqi ambassador said that Iraq is ready to negotiate at the highest level. President Saddam would represent Iraq. The ambassador reiterated in the name of his government the acceptance of three Iranian conditions. They are:

1. Withdrawal of the Iraqi Army from Iranian territory and this has already occurred.
2. Determination of the aggressor.
3. Payment of reparations.

The ambassador added that this acceptance should not be viewed as weakness on the part of Iraq, but as Iraq's realization of the human, social and civilization factors.

Iraq's victory in war means the loss of much material and human capabilities that it needs in its march and development. It is illogic to reject any chance that leads to attaining Iraq's legitimate rights although some people try to propagate that this stance is an appearance of Iraq's weakness. Our handling of this situation is based on the nonexistence of aggressive intentions against Iran.

[Question] Will the nonaligned conference be held as scheduled or will current circumstances prevent it from being convened?

[Answer] The Nonaligned Movement is the only international structure, which includes the newly independent countries, which do not want to be linked with either the Eastern or Western alliances. Iraq has exerted great efforts and has taken measures to ensure the success of the conference. Everything that is needed for the conference has been prepared.

The ambassador added that the existing difference should not influence the activities of the Nonaligned Movement. With regard to Iran's attempts to hinder the convening of the conference, they have failed because they are not based on real interests of the nonaligned countries, but only represents Iran's intrinsic interests. The nonaligned countries did not respond to these attempts because they realized the facts and understood Iran's motives and that is why their attempts ended in failure. By these attempts, Iran has been trying to create differences in a movement that is independent and works for the interest of the nonaligned countries. These attempts are not at all in favor of the movement's interests. We judge the movement by the decisions it issues regardless of whether they are right or wrong. We hope that the seventh conference in Baghdad will end in evaluation of this movement and its principles and will bring about a unified stance that assures us and others that the movement is moving in the right direction.

The Iraqi ambassador affirmed that Egypt's participation in the conference is a good thing, especially since Egypt has not withdrawn as a member of the movement.

CSO: 4400/427

IRAQ

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN--Khartoum, 14 Aug (INA)--Sudanest President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received the credentials of 'Asim al-Ja'fari, new Iraqi ambassador to Sudan. An exclusive report says that President Numayri and the Iraqi ambassador exchanged speeches on this occasion stressing their joint desire to promote bilateral relations in various fields. [Text] [JN141358 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Aug 82]

CSO: 4400/427

DAILY PRAISES EGYPT'S STAND ON PALESTINE ISSUE

JN041012 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Aug 82 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Stand not Adopted by the Arabs"]

[Text] Yesterday Egypt warned that it would reconsider its relations with Israel if Israel attacked Beirut. Egypt reaffirmed the inevitable need to link the evacuation of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon with the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It also stressed that autonomy should lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

This clear and firm Egyptian stand, which is considered the first direct threat to sever relations with Israel, deserves Arab and international appreciation and attention because it really lays down the practical bases not only for ending the Lebanese crisis but for finding a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East crisis.

It would have been more appropriate for the Arab countries, particularly the Gulf countries and those dealing with the Lebanese crisis, to adopt such a frank and clear stand and to announce publicly that the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon is connected with determining the Palestinians' fate and right to return to their homeland. They should also cooperate in putting pressure on the United States to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in return for leaving Beirut and preserving it from destruction.

It seems that Egypt and France are the only ones who are seriously and perseveringly seeking an end to the Lebanese crisis and lifting of the siege imposed on Beirut on the basis of guaranteeing the Palestinians' fate, considering their departure from Beirut for a transitional place and not the end of the road.

The Egyptian-French joint stand should receive the complete support and positive response of the Arabs, the European countries and the rest of the world countries in order to wrench a U.S. and Israeli recognition of the Palestinians' rights as people having their entity, national and political aspirations and their right to have a homeland, and not as refugees chased by the Israeli aggression from one place to another.

We warn against relying on the U.S. promises to solve the Palestine cause after finishing with the Lebanese crisis. We also warn against being deceived by what Washington is saying about the existence of a crisis in the U.S.-Israeli relations. Promises will disappear as soon as we relinquish the only card of barter in the hands of the Arabs under the current circumstances. It is the exchange of the Palestinians' departure from Beirut with the recognition of the Palestinians' right to determine their fate and political future.

The United States has the chance to move in the right direction to settle the situation on the basis of logic and justice. However, the question which poses itself is: Will Washington adopt this positive step or will it remain hostage of the Israeli will, reiterating what Israel says and implementing what is decided in Tel Aviv? The answer to this question should come from the White House quickly and before it is too late.

CSO: 4400/425

KUWAIT

DAILY PRAISES JOINT YEMENI INITIATIVE

GF041918 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 4 Aug 82 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Joint Yemeni Initiative"]

[Excerpts] The Yemeni initiative undertaken by the presidents of the two Yemens, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is aimed at unifying Arab ranks. Thus, they undertook their joint tour which began in Jidda and then continued to Damascus and other Arab capitals. Although the Arab situation does not bring much optimism about the possibility of the Arab return to logic and self, the joint Yemeni initiative attracts attention and remains exciting since it carries--maybe for the first time--leaders of two fraternal countries, who have differences like other fraternal leaders, to fraternal capitals calling for abandonment, brushing aside or freezing of differences in order to reach a unified Arab position vis-a-vis the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. Therefore, the Yemeni move does not only represent a profound feeling of unity between the two Yemens, it also represents association in worries and hopes. It also sets an example for the other fraternal leaders so that they can free themselves from their involvement [in such a position] and from their grudges, and thus face the fateful danger to which the fraternal Palestinian and Lebanese people in Lebanon are exposed and the similar fate that awaits the whole Arab nation.

Therefore, the two Yemeni leaders had no other choice but to launch this joint initiative by touring together the Arab capitals in order to reach an Arab position that awakens those who are fast asleep and surprises them in the heart of their capitals [through showing that] two Arab fraternal leaders with known many differences--in addition to the fact that one of these sides has differences with other Arab sides--dropped all reservations and differences in light of the imminent danger.

CSO: 4400/425

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

AID OFFERED TO SOMALIA--Kuwait, 1 Aug (KUNA)--The cabinet Sunday held its weekly session under the chairmanship of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. The Minister of Public Health and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi said cabinet had reviewed messages exchanged between His Highness the Amir and Senegalese President Abdou Diouf dealing with Kuwait Fund for Economic Development's participation in the rural water project in Senegal, Mauritania and Niger. The cabinet was also briefed on the message sent to His Highness the Amir by Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on the Ethiopian aggression against Somalia delivered last week by the Somali Foreign Minister Dr Mohamed Jama Barre. Al-'Awadi said the Somali president had called on Kuwait to support his country in confronting the aggression. The minister said Kuwait's policy is against any aggression on any Arab country and at the same time, Kuwait does not hesitate in offering aid to Somalia in order to consolidate that Arab country's stand and curb any foreign occupation of its territory. [Text] [LD011716 Kuwait KUNA in English 1610 GMT 1 Aug 82]

AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA--Kuwait, 31 Jul (KUNA)--Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today signed an agreement setting out the bases on which the ownership of the property belonging to the citizens of both countries in the Kuwaiti-Saudi neutral zone will be regulated. [Excerpt] [LD010100 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1413 GMT 31 Jul 82]

CSO: 4400/425

MOVES TO ESTABLISH STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 281, 10 Jul 82 pp 24-25

[Article by Gassam Biram: "Philip Habib: Lebanon Must Be United by Agreement or by Force!"]

[Text] Bets in Beirut now, by all parties to the conflict, are on two things: establishing a strong Lebanese government and the time factor. Steps to establish a government have been severely disrupted, and the time factor is a double-edged sword, with each party considering it to its advantage.

President Ilyas Sarkis has tried more than once to establish a government of national unity to bear the burdens and responsibilities of this difficult period in Lebanon by adopting a broad national strategy which, according to him, will be commensurate with these historical circumstances on which Lebanon's destiny and future rest. President Sarkis discussed this idea with a number of Lebanese political leaders after the "National Salvation Front" meetings broke up in only a few days and after Shafiq al-Wazzan, head of the current government, announced his resignation. President Sarkis believed that creating a strong government representing the various parties was the only choice and would fill the great vacuum created when the "Salvation Front" was prevented from carrying out its role, resulting in the inability of the current government to fulfill even the least of its obligations during this period.

American envoy Philip Habib was a strong promoter of a government of this type, having participated in more than one attempt to provide the elements for success and guarantee the difficult birth of such a government. President Sarkis had asked Sa'ib Salam at first to form a small-scale government of prominent personalities. Sa'ib Bey turned down the assignment and told the president that he was unable to carry out the task, giving many reasons for saying no. After this, President Sarkis tried again by raising the idea of an expanded government to include representatives of the different forces, blocs and political factions. Several names were suggested as head of this government, the most prominent being former Prime Minister Taqi al-Din al-Sulh, who himself originated the idea of forming this type of government under the name of an "all-Lebanon government." When president Sarkis presented this idea to former Prime Minister Salam, he sought clarification as to the possibility of Salam agreeing to include his son, Tamam Salam, in this government. It was said in some circles that when President Sarkis

realized that it was impossible to form a government made up of the "fathers," he turned to the idea of forming a government of the "sons," killing two birds with one stone. This way he could bring the sons of the leaders and some young blood into the government and guarantee the support of their fathers and other prominent political leaders. Because Prime Minister Salam is a prominent Muslim leader, he was originally the target of such an attempt, but he declined to have his son participate in an expanded government of this type. He had earlier declined to form a government of national salvation, believing that the problem was not one of forming a government as much as it was one of the current situation requiring a coalescing of efforts to formulate one national position as a basis for the country's policy.

Therefore, he preferred to continue in the prominent political role he was playing and to participate in finding a reasonable, acceptable way to end the armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon and providing a national consensus concerning this solution which would prevent the tragic destruction of Beirut and at the same time put the entire Lebanese crisis on the road to a solution.

Prime Minister Salam did not go along with the proposals for a government suggested by President Sarkis and supported by American envoy Philip Habib, whose reasons and justifications had been commended by a number of political groups and officials. Prime Minister Salam did not use his oft-repeated position that he had completely divorced himself from his post as prime minister. The reasons he gave for saying no went beyond personal considerations to broad national political considerations, the most significant are as follows:

1. The circumstances which led to the failure of the National Salvation Front still exist and are capable of wrecking a national salvation or national unity government. The issue is not one of a government document or of the various long names given to this document, but is much larger and more profound. It is inseparable from the violent struggle still going on in Lebanon involving the presence or absence of Palestinian organizations in Lebanon politically and militarily, in toto or partially. In fact, it is a question of whether the Palestinian issue will continue in the same fashion and with the same vitality and assumptions as before.

2. Forming a salvation or national unity government is the last card in the president's hand. More specifically, it is the one last, great opportunity for all national leaders and forces to make possible a national consensus and a unified political strategy. Therefore, he cannot risk losing this opportunity, nor can he play this card in light of the current difficult circumstances and the Israeli occupation, which uses the Palestinian presence in Lebanon as a justification for remaining.

Prime Minister Salam also speculated that if establishing a government of salvation and national unity meant creating political consensus and therefore uniting the country politically around its policy and political identity, then what would be the result if an attempt to establish such a government failed. Would it mean that we had reached the point of desperation in reuniting Lebanon? This would make the world and international powers reconsider their positions toward Lebanon's survival within its recognized

borders, its political system and its formula for coexistence among its people, and begin to look into one of the partition formulas which have been suggested many times throughout the Lebanese crisis, since the fighting erupted 7 years ago. With these justifications, Prime Minister Salam was able to convince President Sarkis and envoy Philip Habib. Many officials and political leaders also backed his argument and called for a delay to see what would come out of the negotiations in process with Palestinian leaders.

The government plan proposed by President Sarkis survived, and agreement was reached to put it on ice while waiting for more favorable circumstances to help get it underway. Not putting this plan for a government into action did not make the situation deteriorate after the collapse of the Salvation Front and al-Wazzan's supposed resignation, since all the major Lebanese parties agreed on one thing, although to different degrees. They agreed that the problem was not in the hands of the Lebanese alone but was beyond their capabilities and control and was linked to the essence of the Arab-Israeli struggle and to international strategies contending for spheres of influence and for the rights which both super powers and the other international forces claim in the Middle East.

In light of these claims, the decision is not entirely Lebanon's, but is also a decision to be made by foreigners governed by these and other considerations. This undoubtedly explains why Israel has been content throughout the recent period to besiege west Beirut without invading it and at the same time content to tighten the siege on the Palestinian organizations and their leaders without crushing them and their positions.

When presented with this viewpoint and the reasons which hindered the establishing of a government of national salvation, the president of the chamber of deputies, Kamal al-As'ad, began sounding the alarm a few days ago, asking all concerned in Lebanon, "How long can we continue to ignore a nation-wide decision in Lebanon in light of the thwarted negotiations on the fate and the nature of the Palestinian presence?" Al'As'ad said that ignoring this decision and not dealing with it quickly had begun to threaten a dangerous vacuum in the exercise of responsibility because this neglect had stirred up public opinion, and he feared that if it continued it would threaten to create factional divisiveness, leading to a schism among the people of one nation. Thus all sides would forfeit the opportunity to recreate and revive Lebanon's existence.

What al-As'ad wanted to be cautious about and warned others of was that if there were international opportunities to help the Lebanese, both leaders and officials, to reunite and rebuild Lebanon, the time factor might not be in the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese in the long run. A number of foreign and domestic views of the actual political and military action on the ground, which have been described many different ways, find common ground on these warnings. Observers say that there is more than one party in the fighting that believes that taking a chance is one factor in winning the battle. The Palestinians, represented by the Palestine Liberation

Organization, are betting on the time factor because they see in it a way out of this historical dilemma, which in truth was brought on them by international conspiracy, believing that time may have affected some positions or brought about changes in the international situation and that of the Arab world, which may change many underlying circumstances which prevent them [the Palestinians] from being pushed into one of two situations, both of them undesirable.

Israel may also be betting on the time factor because as long as things are drawn out, Israel can establish itself firmly in Lebanon and widen its influence.

Therefore, Israel is employing the differences among Lebanese communities, political factions and parties in its interest to stay in Lebanon or for the sake of its age-old plans that express historical dreams of establishing Greater Israel and changing the existing Arab political entities into small factional, sectarian countries. If we look at these two main aspects in the fighting and go beyond talk about international wagering, we will arrive at the strong conviction that in the end, Lebanon stands to lose the most from a prolonged crisis, and therefore we will conclude that the time factor is not in Lebanon's interest. These fears, which many Lebanese parties share, are now raising questions about the dividing line between what could be considered opportunities for a political solution and what could be considered a dangerous development that could make Lebanon, state and political entity, lose the chance to survive and return to the status quo ante, that is, Lebanon's internationally recognized borders and the formula for coexistence among its communities under a parliamentary democracy. The prevalent belief among some top government and Phalangist party officials does not call for that much pessimism, but holds that, in general, the balance for Lebanon's future leans toward optimism.

Knowledgeable Lebanese sources assert that Philip Habib has official instructions from his president to remain in Lebanon until the American policy which President Reagan announced in his press conference last week on Lebanon and the Middle East is realized and to reach agreement with the parties concerned on this policy, in particular ending the armed Palestinian presence and helping the Lebanese to agree on establishing a strong central government. These matters have become axioms to all Lebanese, so many times has Philip Habib repeated them during his contacts with Lebanese of all different factions, directly or through intermediaries. He even went as far as telling all sides frankly, that the United States believed that there is no choice for the Lebanese except uniting their wills to unite their country, and if this unity is not realized by agreement among themselves, it will be effected by force, that is, by Israeli occupation. More specifically, Lebanon will either be united by a strong national government or will be kept together by Israeli occupation until the Lebanese agree on one strategy to end all occupations.

ISRAEL RESORTS TO 'VACUUM BOMBS' IN LEBANON

NC101649 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 10 Aug 82

[Text] After its indiscriminate use of cluster bombs and fragmentation shells, Israel has now resorted to the use of vacuum bombs. The so-called vacuum bomb, in fact technically probably a concussion bomb married to a naval or TV guided missile delivery system. [sentence as heard] Such a weapon destroyed the building in Al-Sana'i' last Friday with the loss of over 100 lives. Israel had probably used it earlier in this war and the principle involved is not new. A concussion bomb is designed to detonate above the ground. It releases little shrapnels but rather creates an enormous pressure shockwave directed outwards which then leaves a vacuum behind it. This almost instantaneous double action is capable of collapsing entire buildings as well as underground shelters and fortified positions.

Concussion bombs were first developed by the United States to destroy fortified underground Vietnamese positions. They have been in service with the Israelis since the late seventies. It is possible that the smart delivery packaging of the Al-Sana'i'i weapon was developed by the Israelis themselves although most likely the missile is U.S. designed and manufactured and is being tested by Israel. It is not the sophistication of such a weapon but rather their use against apartment blocks full of civilians that is so reprehensible.

In an editorial 2 days ago THE WASHINGTON POST whitewashed the Israeli terror by saying that its modern warfare is more visible to television coverage than the PLO's [words indistinct].

The Israeli daily DAVAR also stated yesterday that Israel should not be condemned for using (?suction) bombs which make buildings collapse inward instead of outward and therefore, according to the paper, limit the damage rather than spread it.

Anyone who had watched Israel kill and maim [words indistinct] Lebanon for the past 67 days, this is unconscionable logic. There can be no comparison between the Israelis who have [word indistinct] (?50,000) innocent lives, maimed tens of thousands, uprooted over half a million and destroyed much of possessions and between those who are fighting an invading army in self-defence. There is a terrible moral [word indistinct] for such an argument which [words indistinct] of the suffering involved. [words indistinct].

CSO: 4400/427

LEBANON

BRIEFS

ISRAELI REPARATIONS--Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan this morning met with the team of jurists charged with drawing up a legal study requesting compensation from Israel for the destruction and devastation inflicted on Lebanese establishments and property and the human losses caused since the start of the Israeli invasion of Lebanese territory. The team of jurists told the National News Agency that the study centers on the fact that Israel has no excuse to justify its shelling and destruction of the official institutions and Lebanese property or killing innocent civilians. The team pointed out that international jurists associations will be contacted to hold consultations on this matter. The judicial establishments, emanating from the United Nations, will then be contacted to pursue this matter. [Text] [NC131351 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Aug 82]

RESIDENTS IN HADDAD-CONTROLLED ZONE--The number of residents in the areas which were in Haddad-controlled areas prior to the Peace for Galilee Operation has doubled. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that about 150,000 refugees, most of whom are Shi'ites, have reached the region and that all of them found jobs. Our correspondent adds that Major Haddad's soldiers continue to capture several dozens of terrorists weekly, especially in the UNIFIL-controlled zones. [Text] [TA)61257 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Aug 82]

SOUTH'S HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT--Sidon--Unemployment in South Lebanon now stands at over 15,000 according to a survey by the Labour and Welfare Ministry. Unemployment is particularly severe in Tyre, where over 5,000 residents (out of 40,000) are now unemployed. In Sidon, the largest city in South Lebanon with a population of some 140,000 there are less than 5,000 unemployed. The survey says many south Lebanese lost their permanent jobs due to the heavy damage to the refugee camps and workshops in the main cities, particularly in Sidon and Tyre. Hundreds of workers lost their jobs due to the closure of the Al-Zahrani refineries. The Israeli authorities are attempting to ease the economic situation of the unemployed but officials say their options are at present very limited. [Text] [TA080708 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 82 p 3]

CSO: 4400/427

LIBYA

BRIEFS

PATROL BOAT--The rapid patrol boat "Beir Grassa" which left Lorient on 13 March 1982 for Libya is the first of a series of 10 crafts ordered by Libya from France in August 1977. These rapid patrol boats, built by the Mechanical Construction Company of Normandy, are 49.2 meters long and weigh 311 tons. They are powered by four Diesel 4,500-horsepower engines able to propel the boat at about 40 knots an hour and are armed with four Otomat missiles, a 76-millimeter cannon, and a twin Breda 40-millimeter turret. These 10 patrol boats represent a sale of about 3 billion francs. Five other units are now waiting in Lorient while the last four boats are at the shipyard in Cherbourg. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Apr 82 p 8] 2662

NEW AIRPORT--The Libyan Government has just created in the zone of Tripoli south of Sirte a natural airport at Hun. Located at coordinates 290°80' North and 155°70' East, the runway, which is 650 feet in altitude, is made of earth and is 1,500 meters long. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Apr 82 p 8] 2662

SOVIET MILITARY PURCHASES--Libya's purchases of military materiel from the USSR in the past 4 years total some \$12 billion and involve about 300 tanks, over 1,000 artillery units, 800 mortars, 450 missiles (including SAM 7's and SAM 9's), four submarines of the "F" class, and four corvettes equipped with Styx missiles. The Libyan air force now has some 5,000 aircraft of which 700 are combat planes including 9 bombers, 50 MiG 23's, 45 MiG 25's, 30 SU fighters, and 19 transport aircraft. Some 300 of the MiG aircraft are equipped with SAM [sic] missiles of various types. Finally, Libya has just ordered 80 giant transport [planes] from the Soviet Union. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Apr 82 p 8] 2662

VIP PLANE--The VIP plane of Col Mu'ammarr Qadhdhafi, a [French] Marcel Dassault/Breguet Aviation Falcon 50 (5A/DCM), after flying the Libyan head of state to Austria, proceeded to Paris on 11 March 1982 after developing technical problems on takeoff. Piloted by Col Mohammed Nagan al-Din Elias, it was scheduled to fly to Moscow to pick up the head of the operations unit of the Libyan air force, Colonel al-Kadiki. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Apr 82 p 8] 2662

EXECUTIVE PLANES--During 1983 the Libyan Government is scheduled to receive two Gulfstream G III planes for transporting its VIP's. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Jun 82 p 6] 2662

TRIPOLI AIRPORT--Seven international concerns continue to compete for the construction of maintenance and administration buildings in the context of the Tripoli airport extension project. Specifically involved are Fairclough International (Britain), the lowest bidder with an offer of \$279 million, PSB [Projektgesellschaft Schneller Brueter] (Federal Republic of Germany), Atho International (The Netherlands), Consortium of National Companies (Libya), Dillinger Stahlbau (Federal Republic of Germany), and the Heilit-Woernerbau (FRG)-Voest Alpine (Austria) group. The specifications call for the construction of two hangars for aircraft, one 3-story engineering goods and services building, an administrative center, a tarmac, handling areas, and a parking area. The consultants for the project are National Consulting Bureau (Libya) and Wallace Evans and Partners (Britain). [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Jun 82 p 6] 2662

CSO: 4519/211

SYRIA

DEFENSE MINISTER ON LEBANON WAR

PM061397 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 1 Aug 82 p 3

[Interview granted by Syrian Deputy Commander in Chief and Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas to unnamed AL-BA'TH correspondent on Syrian Army's 37th anniversary in Damascus--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: A part of our army is currently engaged in battles against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Our fighters have shown great heroism in these battles. Can we know the details and dimensions of the national task which our army is carrying out on the soil of sisterly Lebanon?

Answer: It has become clear that the Zionist invasion, which is being carried out by Israeli forces backed by the most up to date U.S. weapons and equipment, is aimed at dealing a strong military blow to the Arab steadfastness triangle represented by the Syrian Arab region, the Palestine revolution forces and the joint Lebanese nationalist forces. This is in order to impose a situation by force of arms in which Israel can remove the effective Arab forces from the area and, consequently, convince the Arabs of their inability to liberate the land by force of arms in order to drag them individually and in groups to the negotiating table so as to implement the second part of Camp David agreements.

A look at current events in Lebanon shows that Israel still depends on force of arms to decide the political dispute with the Arabs in its favor and achieve its expansionist and aggressive strategy. Eytan confirmed this when he said: "Israel will solve the Palestinian problem in Lebanon militarily and Israel will only be able to dictate its terms after dealing them a heavy blow."

Question: Certain hostile media are attempting to cast doubts on the arms being used by our armed forces and imply that they are inferior to the U.S. arms being used by the enemy. What is the answer to this campaign of doubts?

Answer: In its aggression against Lebanon Israel adopted a strategy of rapid military action by doing the following:

Concentrating forces and sophisticated military equipment on fronts and axes with the aim of rapidly achieving pre-targeted military objectives that would achieve for it major political gains;

Heavy massing of land and air weapons and haphazard bombing of military and civilian military targets in order to inflict the heaviest possible losses on the Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese forces and thus shock these forces so that they will withdraw in disorder or surrender;

Operating in three directions simultaneously: Ground advance backed by heavy air cover, amphibious landing backed by naval shelling and psychological warfare against our forces in order to create military confusion and weaken their military capability in the field.

But a swift military outcome has not been achieved as Israel wanted because the course of the battle surprised the enemy. This happened when the Syrian Arab forces stood fast and there was maximum cooperation and coordination with the Palestinian and Lebanese forces against the invading forces. This has forced Sharon, the most malicious of all, to admit that "the battle is complicated and very difficult."

In view of the steadfastness of our valiant forces the Israeli command had to resort to psychological warfare which sought to cast doubts on the following:

The capability of the Arab fighters to stand fast and fight;

The quality of the arms in the Syrian forces' possession;

The nature of Syrian-Arab and Syrian-Soviet relations.

The psychological warfare that Israel waged against our forces was aimed at achieving psychological and morale superiority for the invading Israeli forces in order to open the way for its military machine which our valiant forces have halted with their heroic steadfastness and great sacrifices.

This Israeli maneuver has been exposed. Most of what the Israeli command said about the quality of the Syrian arms was obviously a propaganda misrepresentation. The new U.S. M48 and M60 tanks used by Israel did not achieve great successes against our sophisticated Soviet-built T-62 and T-72 tanks and anti-armor weapons, the Israeli propaganda alleged. Israel's loss of 400 tanks and armored vehicles in the various battles in Lebanon, particularly in the battles in southern Al-Biqa' and on the Bhamdun-Beirut axis are the best proof of what we say. This has also been confirmed by most of the Arab and international news agencies. As for in the air, Israel used the latest U.S. aircraft of the F-15 and F-16 types in supporting its land forces and in order to restore its long arm which our aircraft and air defense means in the October liberation war cut off. This was confirmed by Begin when he said:

"The aim in invading Lebanon is to remove the psychological shock that the Arab forces caused the Israeli forces in the October war."

But what happened in the Lebanon war was that our heroic pilots fought violent battles with their new aircraft of the MiG 21 and MiG 23 types and were able to down together with the air defense forces more than 60 Israeli planes of various types, most recent of which were two Israeli remote controlled reconnaissance planes and a Phantom fighter which were shot down on 24 July 1982. The Israeli enemy has admitted the loss of only 24 planes.

CSO: 4400/427

ENVOY ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., USSR

GF091612 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Aug 82 p 19

[Text of interview granted by Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait 'Isa Darwish to AL-SIYASAH correspondent Fathi Sharif--date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] What about the Syrian-U.S. relations particularly after the Khaddam-Reagan meeting? Will this affect your relations with the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Our relations with the Soviet Union stem from friendship and principles. It is based on respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Both of us have objective views based on adhering to justice in political and economic relations between countries and nations. Therefore, this is not like the game of chess, where we have to make this or that move. Our relations with any country can be evaluated on how this country treats issues which are important to us, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue. As for the United States, there is nothing between us because of its full and absolute biased position toward Israel. As President Al-Asad told U.S. journalists "There is no U.S. policy in the Middle East. There is only an Israeli policy perpetrated by the United States." As for us, we repeatedly tried to make the Americans listen to our views. Nixon visited Damascus and President Hafez al-Asad met with President Carter in Geneva. We also received many U.S. delegations. It is regrettable that the United States turns its back on the Arabs and is fully aligned with Israel. As for the visit of Foreign Minister Khaddam, it came in accordance with an Arab request and it was not a Syrian initiative. Khaddam was accompanied by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and they explained the Arab view on the Lebanese-Palestinian issue. As for our relations with the Soviet Union, as I said, they are based on principles. Friends hold discussions. Some of their views may differ, but the objective view and the common goal remain the cohesive tie. Our Soviet friends realize this. So during the Kissinger shuttle visits for the disengagement of forces in the Golan, Gromyko visited Damascus. The two ministers arrived simultaneously. Syria's decisions always stem from adhering to the interest of our country and the Arab nation. It is really regrettable that the United States does not want friends but surrogates. Look at what it has done in Lebanon. Isn't this worth studying and reviewing and then adopting a certain decision? I believe that many of the U.S. friends in the Arab world are not satisfied with its behavior.

[Question] Has the Soviet Union compensated you for the weapons and the missiles which were destroyed during the Israeli invasion?

[Answer] The Soviet Union has not shrunk from extending support and aid to Syria on all levels such as including importing and compensating for these weapons. It is regrettable that the Soviet Union was subjected to much criticism in some of the Arab media. We know that Israel and the United States are behind this campaign in order to isolate the Arabs and keep us friendless so that the Israeli wolf can do what it wants to the victim.

[Question] Do the results of the six-member committee represent Syria's aspiration? Do they represent Syrian tactics or its strategic stance?

[Answer] Our constant strategy is that the Palestinian issue is Syria's basic issue and it is what preoccupies Syria. President Al-Asad repeatedly mentioned that Palestine is merely southern Syria, implying that there is no difference between the Syrian or Palestinian territories. If Syria had joined Camp David it would have recovered the Golan, then there would have been numerous competitors to provide financial and economic aid to Syria. But it is an issue of principle. Since Syria adheres to the national issue, foremost of which is Palestinian issue, it knows very well the dear price it pays. Syria's participation in the six-member committee stems from two basic principles which are Syria's desire in ensuring Arab unanimous confrontation of the Israeli invasion and preservation of the Palestinian revolution from annihilation. The statement given by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to the press in the United States reflects this fact. As for political aspirations, we frankly say that we aspire to see a military, economic and political front surrounding Israel and those who support it. In addition to this, don't you agree with me that had this been achieved, our nation would not have suffered, particularly as it is during this stage. I sincerely say, as I said in the past, that Israel does not want peace. It wants the Arabs' unconditional surrender. Besides, the United States is biased and is not a good arbitrator in the dispute. What Syria does is not a tactic but a sincere desire aimed at making the Arab brethren understand the intentions of Israel and the United States, and making the Arab friends of the United States understand what is their standing with the United States. The United States has let down its friends. It does not leave any reason for any Arab to accept its friendship. In short, we take a particular tactic in order to enhance our overall strategy.

CSO: 4400/427

SYRIA

OPPOSITION FRONT: DAMASCUS CONSPIRED AGAINST RESISTANCE

PM061615 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Aug 82 p 12

[Unattributed report: "Syrian Opposition: Damascus Regime Continuing To Conspire Against Palestinian Resistance"]

[Text] A statement issued by the National Front for the Liberation of Syria has refuted the allegation that the Syrian forces under control of the ruling regime in Damascus have been taking part in the war on the side of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. The statement said that what has been reported and broadcast in this regard is lies and false propaganda.

The National Front statement said that the Syrian Army did not fire a single bullet except when its forces came under attack and that these forces, at the orders of the Damascus command, withdrew, leaving the Palestinian resistance and troops of the 85th Syrian Brigade, which was part of the deterrent force, at the mercy of the Zionist air force.

The statement said that, according to reports, there was a secret agreement in this regard between the regime in Damascus and Tel Aviv via the Americans. The statement said that the Syrian regime had held secret contacts with certain Palestinian personalities with the aim of substituting them for the real leaders of the Palestinian revolution so that they would be under Damascus' control and become a new "Al-Sa'iqah" organization.

The statement said that the recent Syrian official stand was a culmination of other similar stands, such as the loss of the Golan in 1967, the tall Al-Za'tar massacre, and acts of repression inside Syria, the alliance with Iran against Iraq and the abandonment of the Palestinian resistance in its stand against the Zionist invasion of Lebanon.

CSO: 4400/427

SYRIA

DIPLOMAT PRAISES SOVIET-SUPPLIED WEAPONRY

LD120856 Warsaw PAP in English 0734 GMT 12 Aug 82

[From the press review]

[Text] PAP, 12 Aug, Warsaw--Violating all the UN resolutions and decisions Israel is systematically murdering tens of thousands of not only the Palestinian fighters and refugees but also Lebanese women and children. This crime is committed before the eyes of the world with full support of the U.S., said Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Poland General Mohammad Tawfiq al-Jahni in an interview with TRYBUNA LUDU.

The U.S. plans are obvious. It aims to set up in Lebanon, after the resistance of the Palestinians and the progressive Lebanese forces ceases, a collaboration government which would consent to actual control of that country by Israel, the ambassador went on and added that undeniable facts explicitly point out who is a true friend of Arab nations, and especially the PLO and the progressive forces of Lebanon and Syria.

Within the psychological war, imperialism and Zionism attempted to throw a shadow on the USSR's stand towards Lebanon, and to question the effectiveness of Soviet weapons. But it is just the USSR and other socialist states that have provided us with assistance as firmly proves the excellent quality of Soviet arms, said the ambassador.

The problem of the unity of the Arab world and practical conclusions resulting therefrom for a joint struggle against Israel, are our own affair. Time will certainly solve it soon to the advantage of the Arab progressive and leftist forces, of our unity, the Syrian ambassador continued.

It is also doubtless that the just struggle of the Palestinian nation will win a final victory, he predicted.

In the interview the Syrian ambassador to Poland also thanked the Polish nation and its leadership for hearty understanding and full support for their just cause.

CSO: 4400/427

SYRIA

ARAB SOCIALIST UNION PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR AL-ASAD

JN132150 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Aug 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from the Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Union Party in Syria expressing its absolute confidence in President al-Asad's leadership and in his ability to recreate life in the Arab homeland. The following is the text of the cable:

The Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Union Party in Syria held a meeting in Damascus on 13 August 1982 and discussed the political and military situation particularly following the Ba'th Party regional command's decision to respond to the Palestinian resistance demands concerning the transfer of part of the Palestinian fighters to Syria. The Central Committee would like to affirm that the party, with all its resources and capabilities, is placed at your disposal and at that of this struggling country which is scoring unsurpassed degrees in heroism and sacrifice and which has become a paragon for all the struggles for pan-Arab glory and dignity, thanks to your leadership.

The stand of our heroic armed forces and your decision to fight and prevent the enemy from reaching its goals have been instrumental in defining the features of the coming stage which will be full of political and military struggle and which will eventually lead to realizing legitimate aims of our national and pan-Arab aims. The armed forces' stand and your decision will go down in history as a genuine expression of the will to fight which is derived from the people. You said that blood makes history and gave a practical example in this field through the actions of our armed forces. Those who attempt to belittle the role and responsibility of this struggling country are belittling the role of the Arab nation because there is great similarity between the two roles, because without Syria's role there would be no Arab role and because the struggle of Syria is the struggle of the entire Arab nation.

Our people have chosen you to play this historic role and to prove that the will to fight and live are stronger than all attempts to stifle them. Our people have chosen you in order to prove that the will of man which emanates from blood and martyrdom can create life, a future and history. The Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Union Party in Syria reiterates its absolute confidence in your leadership and its firm belief that this leadership will carry out a decisive action and to recreate life in the Arab homeland. Please accept our high regard, love and allegiance.

CSO: 4400/427

BRIEFS

ISRAELI SPY EXECUTED--Damascus, 11 Aug (SANA)--Further information was disclosed here today on the spy Zuhayr Butrus who was executed yesterday. The information indicates that the spy, who immigrated to the country with his family, was born in 1946 and lived with his family in Latakia. He worked with his father in the port and as he was performing his compulsory military service he escaped to the occupied territories and offered his services to the Zionist enemy. The Zionist intelligence trained him inside and outside the Zionist entity on the use of electronic equipment. Later, as the enemy controlled all the details of his daily life, he was exploited to carry out acts of espionage against Syria by conveying information to Mossad through liaison officers in a number of Western capitals. After entering Syria to carry out his espionage mission, the competent security organs managed to discover him, follow up his moves and, finally, arrest him along with the other elements of his network. After finishing the necessary interrogation, he was executed. [Text] [JN111459 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Aug 82]

ARAB SOCIALIST UNION STATEMENT--The Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Union Party in Syria issued a statement on recent events in Lebanon at the conclusion of its meeting in Damascus on 13 August. The statement dealt with the aims of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the siege around Beirut. The statement said: By aiming at the Arab territory and resistance in Lebanon, the enemy is attempting to take revenge on our nation and on our army because of its victory in the October 1973 war. The statement referred to the plots to subjugate Syria and said that Syria would confront all the wars and plot with pride and with profound awareness of its historical role and responsibilities. The statement also said that the heavy price being paid by the Zionist entity to harm Syria's role and position will prompt the enemy to seriously reconsider all its plans because the Syrian bastion can never collapse and because of Syria's national and pan-Arab stand which is more powerful than all the tanks, planes and bombs. [Text] [JN142154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Aug 82]

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD ACTIVITY--The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Muslim Brotherhood is carrying out new activity in Syria as part of its opposition to the existing authorities. According to some information, a clash has taken place between Syrian security men and the Muslim Brotherhood at a bus station in Aleppo, causing a number of casualties. Meanwhile, informed sources have reported that Soviet experts and new arms shipments have arrived in Syria following the losses suffered by the Syrian Army in its battles with the Israeli forces. [Text] [NC061325 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Aug 82]
CSO: 4400/427

GOVERNMENT, TEACHERS' UNIONS REACH AGREEMENT

Tunis LE MAGHREB in French No 57, 22 May 82 pp 36, 37

[Article by B. Ammar: "Finally, an Agreement Is Reached"]

[Text] After taking on nationwide proportions, the teachers' case has finally reached a happy conclusion--but not without having dragged on for many months. That epilogue was reached after four strikes [occurred] during the current academic year, all of which were totally successful. That success is due essentially to the fact that the teachers stuck to their legitimate demands. Having the support of the executive board of the UGTT [Tunisian General Federation of Labor], the secondary [education] labor unions did not hesitate to use the threat of civil service strikes in case their demands were not successful. Meanwhile, countless meetings took place between teachers' representatives and certain government officials in an effort to find a way out of the impasse, with an adequate solution that would satisfy everyone.

And, while the agencies in charge seemed to be favorably inclined towards the reduction in the number of hours to 18 a week, for certain categories of teachers and the opening of scientific and professional perspectives, they did, on the other hand, put up a solid front against the salary alignment. Adjusting the salaries along the lines of those of state engineers or judges is out of the question, because each one has his specialty, and a teacher should not go so far in his demands! The unions did not give up, however. In spite of a certain fatigue, and some signs of division, good will soon prevailed and helped close the ranks of union members lest they lose their hold and give the opponent a chance to make a solo move. Thus, last April's CA [Administrative Committee] reaffirmed union solidarity and retained the principle of the strike for the 16, 17 and 18 of that month. That strike, much feared as it was occurring after the business partners had signed their agreement of 18 February 1982, succeeded brilliantly. During those 3 days of debates and fruitful talks, the majority of the teachers proposed resorting to the civil service strike as the only method enabling them to put pressure on the government. This is what was decided during the 2 May CA attended by Mr Achour, UGTT president. Nevertheless that decision was kept secret and it was decided to grant the ministry a 10-day period in which to review its positions, particularly in view of the fact that negotiations were making progress and there were no more differences on matters of principles. On 11 May, the unions notified the teachers that the civil service strike would take place. On 12 May, they were invited to have another session around the negotiating table. The meeting lasted more than 12 uninter-

rupted hours. Common grounds were found and an agreement signed on the following three points:

1. Salary alignment: The two parties agreed on increasing teachers' remuneration by 42, 40, 30, 20 and 17 dinars 500 millimes, respectively for "professeurs agregés" [teachers having passed a state competitive examination for posts in high schools or universities]; secondary education teachers; secondary education teachers, first cycle; masters in secondary education, masters in technical education and, finally, technical instructors. That amount will be spread over 3 years, starting in 1983. The first year's installment will be 50 percent, with the next two being 25 percent each. A second increase equal to the first and, this time, spread over 4 years, starting in 1983, will be awarded to the teachers in the category of mileage and housing allowances. By the way, here is what each category of teachers will earn in the next 4 years:

Catrgories	1983	1984	1985	1986	Total
"Professeur agregé"	31,500	21,500	21,000	10,500	84
"Professeur licence" ¹	30,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	80
Secondary education teacher, first cycle	22,500	15,000	15,000	7,500	60
Master of secondary or technical education	15,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	40
Technical instructor	11,125	8,750	8,750	4,375	35

1. Teacher holding the "license," a university diploma usually requiring 4 years of studies.

It should be noted that this increase is not tax-exempt and that any other increase within the framework of public service will automatically cover teachers.

2. With regard to the reduction in the number of hours, it was agreed that it would be achieved over 3 years, starting with the 82/83 school year, as follows:

1982/83: 20
 1983/84: 19
 1984/85: 18

3. As far as opening up scientific prospects is concerned, both parties, having heard the report prepared by the committee drawing membership equally

from the secondary education unions on one hand, and by members of the ministries of National Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research, on the other hand, agreed on the subject of allowing teachers to take retraining classes in college starting next year. With regard to opening up professional perspectives, any teacher who has attained 8 years of seniority, will be able to advance "through the ranks," either by giving a class demonstration in front of teachers holding the rank to which he or she aspires, with other examiners in attendance, or by submitting some sort of a thesis on a topic that he will choose, in conjunction with his examiner. This does not apply to the masters of secondary or technical education, who will still go by the old regulations.

Thus, this long-enduring case is coming to an end. The "baccalaureat"¹ and other nationwide examinations will be given. They will take place under normal circumstances; however, the agreement signed by the unions and the Ministry of National Education is creating much controversy. Some teachers consider it as pared down, especially since the words "salary alignment" have been rejected. "Who'll give us assurances that the government will not keep pursuing the same policy of salary discrimination? They might easily increase the specific pay of those holding the same degrees we do and yet not increase ours?" In addition, they are very much afraid of that matter of special status which is in danger of setting them apart from other professionals in the public sector.

At this point, what lies ahead for the teachers? In fact, many other problems have, until now, been kept in the background. At the top of the list is the problem of the part played by the teaching profession in selecting the nation's educational policy, especially since the government once again is contemplating a policy change without, however, consulting those primarily concerned, in this case the teachers. Another problem is that of extra working hours which are compensated, not only with great delay but also very poorly. As a matter of fact, the pay for overtime is not even one-third that for regular work! Also on the agenda are the strike days that were deducted from the pay, and others that are the strike days that were deducted from the pay, and others that are scheduled to be deducted. The secondary education unions definitely have their work cut out for them.

¹ French secondary school diploma, obtained by passing a state examination by the same name.

NEWSPAPER CALLS FOR JORDANIAN-SYRIAN STAND

GF171954 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Now Is the Opportunity"]

[Excerpts] Despite the U.S. "uproar" which accompanied the telephone call which took place between Begin and Reagan during the crazy shelling of Beirut from air, land and sea a few days ago, and despite all the statements and the stances--which say everything but say nothing--which accompanied Habib's trips to Beirut, Jerusalem and a number of Arab capitals, the immediate Zionist goal in its invasion of Beirut is its political maneuverings and to continue to carry out its criminal operations in West Beirut.

In light of the genuine dangers and the revealed Zionist stances, the Syrian-Jordanian position has to meet the historic responsibility. This can be done--before the holding of the FES summit--by holding a series of meetings now on the political and military levels to confront the Zionist danger since these two countries already have integrated coordination committees under the chairmanship of President Hafez al-Asad and King Husayn.

We were "taken in" in the June war. Then we fought the October war which some viewed as a "war of moves." Then the enemy entered Lebanon due to Arab "differences" as an Arab Government information office says. How will anyone justify his position if Israel invades Syria and Jordan from Lebanon, the Golan and the West Bank and imposes on them the same conditions which Begin announced a few days after the invasion of Lebanon?! Having Arabs unity behind a national and responsible Syrian-Jordanian stand is an opportunity which cannot be missed. If this opportunity is missed then all Arab leaders will only have themselves to blame when Begin is crowned the "king" of the Arabs from the Arab Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

CSO: 4400/430

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DATA ON FOREIGN WORKERS, POPULATION STATISTICS OUTLINED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 206, 26 Jul 82 pp 46-47

[Article adapted from Saudi Arabian Newspaper, AL-RIYAD: "The Structure of the Work Force in the United Arab Emirates"]

[Text] The ratio of the local work force [to the total work force] in the United Arab Emirates is still low. The Asian work force makes up the majority of the work force in the country.

The population in all the countries of the Arabian Gulf is small. Consequently, Gulf countries rely on incoming workers and utilize their contributions to implement their development plans. Like the remaining countries in the area the United Arab Emirates suffers from a population shortage. Therefore, it relies on incoming workers of various nationalities.

Workers coming into the country from abroad have the power to make contributions and to build. On the other hand, they have some undeniable drawbacks.

The rapid development that occurred in the Arabian Gulf area in the second half of the present century had a major effect on changing the political, economic and social aspects of life in the area. In the years that immediately followed the fifties, a rapid rise in the rates of industrial and commercial growth occurred in the area.

This rapid growth coincided with the growth of the labor force and the effort which was made by that labor force to stay in step with the new social and economic realities of the area, which now has the largest oil reserves in the world. The problem of employment and labor which sets all aspects of this development in motion may have been one of the greatest challenges and problems that the countries of the area faced, in so far as most of their people were either engaged in fishing or had Bedouin origins. Furthermore, these countries, like other developing countries, originally suffered from the problem of having a small labor force in proportion to the total population.

Workers have been pouring into this area due to the small demographic base of the countries of the area and because the native labor force that is necessary for development projects is not available. The question of labor in the countries of the Arabian Gulf became one of the foremost central questions holding the

attention of opinion leaders and officials. Political, economic and scientific agencies are interested in this question and are studying it. Regional and international organizations are also giving it considerable attention for numerous cultural, economic and political reasons.

Because of its importance in the Arabian Gulf, the question has been discussed on the Arab scene as well as locally in the countries of the Gulf at many meetings and official gatherings that were held in the area. The problem of workers coming into the countries of the Arabian Gulf is a common problem for seven countries which are different from each other in general but are particularly different with regard to their motives for employing these workers and the consequences of such employment. However, these countries agree on the fact that they rely in a principal way, although in various degrees, on a work force that comes to them from outside their borders.

Accordingly, the gatherings, discussions and studies that took place on this subject focused on the employment features of these countries regarding the nature of the makeup of [the community of workers] who come into the Arabian Gulf area; the role of those workers; their effect on social conditions; and the demographic makeup of the area. These gatherings, discussions and studies concluded that attainment of a middle-ground with the Arabs was necessary so that the reserve manpower in the Arab countries can be utilized and the use of Arab labor increased to solve the problem in Arabian Gulf countries.

We will review in some detail the nature and composition of the labor force, especially since this labor force outnumbers the original population. We will also propose some solutions that could contribute to the process of setting the right course for the labor force.

The Labor Force in the United Arab Emirates

The subject of the labor force is a broad subject that is controlled by numerous political, social and economic factors. Any change in any one of these factors alters the impact the other factors have on the labor force. The impact each one of these factors has differs according to the resources that are available and according to time and place.

By considering the statistics that are available about the Emirates one can conclude the following:

1. The population rose from 319,000 in 1972 to 1,040,000 persons in 1980. In 8 years the population has more than tripled. In return, the labor force grew from 145,000 workers to 541,000 workers. Citizens make up a small percentage of the total population.
2. The population increase has declined from about 20 percent annually between 1973 and 1977 to 7 percent between 1978 and the end of 1980.
3. The ratio of workers to the total population rose from 45 percent in 1972 to 57.7 percent in 1977. In 1980 that ratio declined to 52 percent.
4. Males greatly outnumber females.

5. Citizens' participation in professional and productive activities is low.

6. In 1980 the number of workers who were directly employed in the sectors of production--agriculture, animal and fish resources, strategic and conversion industries--was not more than 8 percent of the total number of workers.

7. In 1980 the number of unskilled workers made up 34 percent of total workers, and the number of semi-skilled workers also made up 34 percent of all workers in 1980.

On the basis of the foregoing data it may be said that the number of workers coming into the Emirates is growing and that that has many drawbacks. The following are mentioned as examples and not to provide an exhaustive list:

1. A large number of the nation's wealth is going out of the country. This is manifested in excess salaries and wages, surplus profits and other surplus operations.

2. The state is being burdened with financial responsibilities to ensure services for an excessive supply of labor.

3. Modes of social conduct and consumer conduct have been created, and these are not always in the interests of the country.

4. Large numbers of citizens are being employed to perform jobs that the country can do without if the number of workers coming into the country declines. Those citizens can be utilized in administrative and productive sectors.

Planning and Developing Human Resources

The wisest solution to the crisis of the work force in the Emirates lies in setting out with the premises of the objectives of economic and social development which, in turn, determine the plan for human resources. Accordingly, a decisive priority must be given to the development of human resources in the general strategy for society. This is to be translated into the creation of supreme planning agencies that can define a strategy for the development of human resources. That strategy is to be linked with clearly defined demographic objectives, and these agencies are to set forth the policies and programs that would implement and monitor the strategies of human resources development.

When a development plan is defined, determining the material and human methods and means for implementing it becomes possible. It would [then] become possible to devise a human resources plan whose aim is to set the right course for the work force by setting the right course for organizations regarding their size, their area of specialization, their location and their general management. This is because each economic establishment has an ideal size determined by the conditions of the local and international market, by the technology that is utilized and by the work force.

A study of the services sector--building, construction, trade, restaurants, hotels, transportation, storage and communications--indicates that these activities are attracting the largest number of workers--approximately 68 percent of

the labor force. This is occurring at the expense of production sectors, affirming the fact that service organizations are generally larger than they should be ideally. In our opinion, the principal solution to the problem of employment, which must be consistent with human resources planning, is merger and specialization. This means firms with similar purposes are to be merged so that they may become firms of an ideal size, but the areas in which these firms specialize are to be taken into account.

This solution would reduce the number of workers, change the composition of the labor force, and improve the productivity of those workers. In turn, this will allow native workers to replace imported workers gradually, and native companies will also gradually replace foreign ones. To ensure the manpower that is necessary to implement development plans in the future, we must proceed in the first place with maximum utilization of our citizens by educating them, qualifying them, training them and giving them experience. People who are now working as custodians and guards, for example, can be trained to perform technical work. The new generation must also be encouraged to obtain technical and vocational education. Accordingly, the educational system in the state has to play a significant role in ensuring the needs of economic and social development.

Increasing the Awareness of the Asian Labor Force

Due to the fact that the Asian labor force has become one of the foremost central problems, holding the attention of opinion leaders and officials in the Emirates as a result of the fact that large numbers of Asian workers have come into the country, we think it is necessary that these people be addressed and that they be informed about the behavior they should abide by inside the country. The gravity of their actions and activities must be explained to them by publishing bulletins and publications in their languages or by producing posters or billboards in these languages that refer to the customs, traditions and values of the host country and by placing these posters in a variety of places.

The gatherings these people have in mosques after the evening prayer can be utilized. The Asians can be addressed in the mosques in their own languages, and they can be shown to the methods that must be observed. Meetings can be held with them in the places where they gather and where they have their celebrations. Also their embassies can be utilized to increase their awareness.

Individuals with Work Permits in 1975-1979 According to Nationality

Nationalities	Years				
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Arab countries	23,532	48,508	40,440	25,767	14,700
India	47,749	99,642	96,581	60,384	54,969
Pakistan	37,408	57,880	53,131	36,455	25,093
Other Asian countries	8,156	12,988	18,248	25,338	14,588
Non-Arab African countries	248	511	458	511	399
European countries	9,108	16,660	14,662	13,617	8,737
American countries	1,607	2,996	2,661	2,039	1,407
Oceanian countries	121	370	328	290	216
Total	127,938	239,555	226,509	164,401	120,109

Individuals in Each Emirate with Work Permits in 1975-1979

Individuals with Work Permits in 1979 According to Nationality and Kind of Permit

Nationality	Kind of Permit		Total
	Personal Permits	Group Permits	
Egypt	3,370	1,023	4,393
Lebanon	2,118	901	3,019
Jordan	1,225	251	1,476
Syria	1,556	383	1,939
Palestine	1,256	256	1,512
Yemen	577	39	616
Somalia and Djibouti	435	206	641
Sudan	476	33	509
Iraq	471	37	508
Countries of the Arab Maghreb	66	21	87
India	32,968	22,001	54,969
Pakistan	17,938	7,155	25,093
Bangladesh	2,848	1,273	4,121
Iran	1,564	47	1,611

8592

CSO:4404/585

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM AL-QADHDHAFI--UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, on bilateral relations and current Arab developments. The message was received by Surur Ibn Muhammad, chief of the UAE president's office, during his meeting today with 'Ali Mahmud Maria, chief of the Libyan People's Bureau in Abu Dhabi. [Text] [GF141212 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Aug 82]

ZAYID MEETS KREISKY IN GENEVA--Geneva, 13 Aug (QNA)--UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan met with Australian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in Geneva today. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, the UAE president's representative. WAM reports that during the meeting they exchanged views on current developments in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian issue in light of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and international issues of common interest. Chancellor Kreisky arrived in Geneva from Vienna today to meet with Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. [Text] [GF131815 Doha QNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 Aug 82]

CSO: 4400/430

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR EXPATRIATES SUPPORTS, ENCOURAGES UNITY EFFORTS

San'a' AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 May 82 p 3

[Article: "Text of Resolutions and Recommendations Issued in the Final Communique of the Second General Conference for Expatriates; Conference Praises Both the Domestic and Foreign National Policies of Our Political Leaders"]

[Text] The conference gives its blessings to steps that were taken to unify Yemen and asks political leaders in both sections of the country to intensify efforts that would expedite the proclamation of unity.

The conference evaluates our country's national positions on the Palestinian question.

The conference goes on record expressing its appreciation for the role played by the media in keeping Yemeni expatriates informed and attached to their homeland.

At this important stage in the history of our great Yemeni people and under the auspices of the people's pursuit of cooperative, democratic development, the second general conference for Yemeni expatriates was convened in Sana'a from 16 to 20 May 1982. The conference was sponsored by the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the commander in chief of the armed forces, and its slogan was "For a more abiding loyalty to Yemeni territory."

The president and commander dedicated the conference by making a significant nationalistic statement that illustrated how much affection and interest the national political leadership had for Yemeni expatriates. The president's statement also illustrated the leadership's appreciation of the patriotic role played by expatriates in the contributions they make to the process of economic and social development which our country is experiencing. Expatriates also participated in our people's struggle to eliminate the oppressive legacy of backwardness which we inherited from the loathsome days of the imams.

The conference regarded the statement that the president made in the course of the opening session one of its basic, significant documents. Its contents would enlighten all the people of Yemen inside the country and abroad.

There were 126 expatriates taking part in this significant conference. They represented fellow expatriates in the following countries: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, the Democratic Republic of

Sudan, the Republic of Djibouti, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, France, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Bahrain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ethiopia and India.

After the opening session the conferees met in a closed session that was chaired by our fellow leader 'Abduh Muhammad al-Harawi, the secretary general of the General Association of Yemeni Expatriates. During that session 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shabibi, general manager of the Public Administration for Consular and Expatriate Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was elected general reporter for the conference. The following committees were also formed:

1. The committee for expatriate issues.
2. The political committee.
3. The economic committee.

A number of ministers and officials in government agencies, whose work is related to expatriates' issues, took part in the agendas and sessions of these committees. Each committee according to its special function considered the working papers that had been submitted to the conference. These are as follows:

1. A working paper on foreign policy submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. A working paper on domestic policy submitted by the Ministry of Information and Culture.
3. A working paper on expatriates' issues prepared by the sub-committee that made the preparations for the conference.
4. A working paper submitted by the General Secretariat of the General Association for Expatriates about the realities of the workplace and [expatriates'] ambitions for developing their relations with their homeland.
5. A working paper submitted by the Central Planning Agency.
6. A working paper on investment opportunities in industry submitted by the Industrial Bank of Yemen.
7. A working paper submitted by the Yemeni Investment Company.
8. A working paper on the benefits of the Investment Law submitted by the Ministry of the Economy and Industry.

Many documents were also presented to the conference. Among these were [the following]:

The National Defense Service Law and its executive ordinances; the Law on Travel Documents and Citizenship; the Personal Status Law; the Civil Registration Law; and the Investment Promotion Law.

There were significant debates in addition to meetings that were held by the committees, which grew out of the conference. These debates dealt with the most important questions that concern the homeland and citizens abroad and in the

country. One of these debates was moderated by Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president and commander in chief of the armed forces. The exchange that took place during that debate between the commander and fellow conferees was characterized by truthfulness, candor and objectivity.

Fellow expatriates sensed the affection the president had for that important sector of our Yemeni nation. They sensed that the political leadership was truthfully in favor of a national democracy for the purpose of elevating these people whose origins are noble and bringing about their progress. This led the conference to call His Excellency, the President, Yemen's devoted son. The conference honored the president and expressed its gratitude and allegiance to him.

Prime Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani moderated another debate on our country's political and economic course. At that debate the conferees were extremely appreciative of the wise policy our country was pursuing in politics and in economics.

There was a third debate for discussing the questions and problems that would be of interest to fellow expatriates. Discussions were unambiguous and candid during that debate with a few authorized officials in the areas of civil defense, travel documents and citizenship, customs, taxes, the proposed National Charter, the General People's Congress, the second 5-Year Plan, the investment law, communications, transportation and cooperatives.

Because it is convinced that the role expatriates play in the over-all ambitions and aspirations of the people of Yemen is an important one, it was with a spirit of national responsibility that the conference considered the contributions this sector can make in the field of economic and social development.

The conference made the following resolutions and recommendations:

First, in Domestic Policy:

The conference gave careful consideration to the working paper that dealt with the principal features of our country's domestic policy, conducting an exhaustive discussion of the contents of that paper. The conference expressed much appreciation for the unequivocal and proper course which our supreme political leadership, led by the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, had set for our national questions and concerns to build [sound] domestic structures. This illustrates the six noble goals of the glorious 26 September Revolution. In this regard the conference resolved the following:

1. The conference highly commends our country's political course in the area of building domestic structures, and it praises the establishment of sound foundations for true democracy. The conference gives its blessings to the steps that have been taken in this regard: the formation of a constituent people's assembly, an advisory council, municipal councils and other popular trade unions and associations.

The conference emphasizes the importance of maintaining this course which reflects an ennobling image of the democracy to which our people aspire. [This course also reflects] the freedom which they hope to enjoy.

2. The conference gives its blessings to the serious efforts that are being made by the state to convene the general people's congress that will consider final ratification of the National Charter. The conference commends the leaders for the care they have demonstrated in ensuring the participation of the representatives of expatriates in the general people's congress.

3. The conference expresses great appreciation for the steps that were taken by the political leadership to reinforce national unity and expand the foundation of the people's participation in shouldering responsibility. The conference gives its blessings to Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's renewed appeal to those who had been misled, [urging them] to return to the homeland and make a contribution in serving the homeland in a spirit of sincere national loyalty to the territory, the people, the revolution and the leader of Yemen.

4. The conference condemns aggressive actions against the democratic, developmental and cooperative gains of the glorious revolution of 26 September. These aggressive actions are being pursued to upset citizens' security and stability.

The conference regards loyalty to any entity other than Yemen to constitute treason and a disregard for all the sacred patriotic values with which every one of our citizens is endowed.

5. The conference commends the resolutions and recommendations that were made by the International Conference on Yemeni Development. The conference is pleased with the political leadership of our country for adopting the principle of scientific planning as the ideal method for conducting the process of comprehensive social and economic development. The conference urges all expatriates to double their efforts so that the objectives of the second 5-Year Plan can be achieved successfully.

6. The conference commends the special attention given by the president to the cooperative experiment in Yemen. It is a feature of democracy, a creative popular action and a cultural movement stemming from the will of the people.

The conference is pleased with the generous support that is offered by the state to cooperative activities so that the objectives of those activities can be achieved and a productive Yemen can be founded.

7. The conference is highly appreciative of the considerable and significant development that has been realized in the process of building up the armed forces and the security forces [in Yemen]. This would not have been achieved had it not been for the interest and concern of our political leaders whose vigilant efforts in bringing about that major national accomplishment illustrate the revolution's most important objectives. This development is linked with the effective instrument that sparked the revolution. The armed forces and security forces have been protecting the revolution, watching over its accomplishments, protecting the stability and security of the people and defending the people's independence and sovereignty.

8. The conference is pleased with the steps that have been taken by the political leadership to affirm social justice in Yemen. These steps guarantee the principle of equality, social responsibility and equality of opportunity.

The conference appreciates the steps taken by the state and the laws that have been enacted to achieve this objective. Among these laws are the Social Security Law and the Martyrs' Families Protection Act. People who died in action gave up their lives for the revolution and for the republic so that peace and stability can be preserved. There are also retirement laws for state employees and for people in the armed forces and in the police.

9. The conference commends the sincere ideological position our political leaders have assumed on the question of Yemen's unity, which is one of the objectives of our glorious revolution. As far as our Yemeni people are concerned, the question of unity is the question. The conference gives its blessings to the steps that have been taken toward unity and to all the sincere efforts that are being made in both parts of Yemen to meet the commitments of implementing the unification agreements, especially the agreement of 12 June and the cooperation and coordination agreement between both sections of Yemen. The conference calls upon political leaders in both parts of Yemen to intensify all their efforts and expedite the day when a united Yemeni state will be declared on the firm foundations that were outlined in the Yemeni Unity agreements. These formations of unity stemmed from the will of the people, their Islamic faith, their noble origins and their Arab culture.

10. The conference commends the support provided by the political leadership and the government to the General Association of Yemeni Expatriates. This support illustrates the state's interest in that important sector of our people, and it demonstrates the provisions that the state makes for that sector.

11. The conference is highly appreciative of the field visits that the president makes to areas of the republic. The conference appreciates the fact that the president urges officials to meet with citizens at the various sites of work and production so as to strengthen the bond between the leadership and the masses, from which those leaders have emerged.

Second, on Foreign Policy:

The conference reviewed our country's foreign policy as well as its Arab and international relations.

In expressing its appreciation for the patriotic and nationalistic course which is being pursued by our foreign policy, as set by the objectives and principles of the 26 September Revolution and the instructions of our national political leaders—who are represented by the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih--the conference emphasizes the importance of adhering to this patriotic and nationalistic course which is consistent with the aspirations and ambitions of our people and with their national and cultural affiliations as well.

In this regard the conference commends the nationalistic position that is being pursued by our country on the Arabs' foremost question--the Palestinian question. The conference especially commends the courageous national decision that was made by our political leaders to allow Yemeni citizens to volunteer to enlist in the regiments of the Palestinian Revolution. Yemeni leaders decided that Yemeni citizens who lose their lives on the battlefield of honor are to be considered martyrs of the Yemeni Revolution.

The conference expresses its support for the struggle in which the Palestinian people are engaged in occupied Arab territory. The conference supports the Palestinian people's daily resistance to tyranny and to Israeli attacks against the civilian population and the sacred places of Islam. The conference also condemns the Zionist entity's aggressive actions against Palestinians and Lebanese people in south Lebanon.

The conference also expresses its support for the efforts that are being made by our country to clear the air in the Arab world and to restore Arab solidarity. The conference expresses its satisfaction with the role our country is playing in this regard and with the position it holds on the Arab scene.

The conference commends the nationalistic position assumed by our country on the war between Iraq and Iran. This position stems from the unity of Arab destiny in the face of challenges and foreign dangers that threaten our Arab and Islamic nation. The purpose of this position is to restore the legitimate Arab rights which fraternal Iraq is defending. At the same time the conference commends the praiseworthy efforts and endeavors that are being made to settle the dispute between the two countries peacefully.

The conference expresses its support for the efforts that are being made by our government to develop our country's international relations and to adhere to the basic principles of our foreign policy. These principles were introduced by the glorious 26 September Revolution, and they were implanted in the minds and lives of our people by our national political leaders. These principles are manifested in the following:

1. Non-intervention in the domestic affairs of countries.
2. Adherence to the principles and objectives of the Non-alignment movement.
3. Championing the cause of freedom everywhere and supporting national liberation movements in their struggle against all forms of colonialism and racism.
4. Rejecting and opposing military alliances and foreign military bases.
5. Making an effort with the non-aligned group of countries to establish a balanced, international economic system that would enable the countries of this group to invest their resources in the interests of their people.
6. Adhering to the UN Charter and supporting UN efforts to preserve international peace and security.
7. Supporting international efforts to curb the arms race, [to bring about an agreement on] nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and [to limit] the use of nuclear energy to peaceful purposes.

In giving our country high marks for its foreign policy achievements--as represented in our country's UN presence, in its position and prestige and in the distinguished role it is playing--and in recognizing the positive consequences those achievements have had on our people and on their progress toward development, the conference [states that] it considers these achievements the product of

the national commitment our political leaders have made to the principles of our glorious revolution. These achievements are the product of our leaders' concern for the interests of our people and our country. In registering its esteem for all these achievements and its pride in them, the conference expresses its thanks to the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Thanks to his wisdom, his patriotism and his sincerity our country was able to realize these splendid achievements.

Third, the Economic Aspect:

The conference examined the economic working papers that were presented to it. The conference discussed these papers in detail and acquainted itself with aspects of the economic activities for development that our country is experiencing. The conference also discussed and acquainted itself with the achievements and accomplishments realized by our people in all fields. The conference [then] issued the following recommendations:

1. The conference recommends that it is essential that the funds which are necessary for implementing the second 5-Year plan be provided. This can be done by mobilizing all available resources; by encouraging expatriates to invest their funds in the homeland; by offering them all possible assistance and terms; and by removing the difficulties that may prevent them from doing so. The conference affirms the fact that it is important that banks and economic and investment organizations seek out expatriates and propose to them that they purchase shares in investment and savings projects.
2. The conference recommends that the state continue to promote the investment of Arab and foreign capital in our country.
3. [The conference recommends that] efforts be made to develop the mixed sector; that participation in development projects be encouraged; and that the pioneering role of the public sector be enhanced.
4. The conference recommends that industrial banks, cooperative agricultural banks and housing banks invest their funds in loans that would be made available to citizens and projects whose objectives are consistent with those for which these banks were established.
5. The conference recommends that local production be encouraged and that people who invest in agriculture be subsidized so that food imports can be reduced. Limits are to be placed on imports of luxury goods and goods for which substitutes can be found in local industries.
6. The conference recommends that efforts be made to fight those who avoid paying customs fees and to reinforce the customs agency with competent personnel.
7. The conference recommends that principles be established according to which the Department of Revenues can disseminate information about taxes, improve tax-collection methods, prevent tax evasion and enforce the changes in the tax laws as these changes occur.

Fourth, the Issues of Expatriates:

The conference examined the working papers that were presented to it by all authorized state agencies, by the conference steering committee, by the conference sub-committee and by the General Association of Expatriates. The conference discussed in detail with the agencies that are directly related to expatriates' issues everything that would be of interest to expatriates and everything that would realize for them more protection and attention in the light of the continuous directions that are provided by our country's political leaders in that regard.

In these areas the conference made the following recommendations:

1. The Questions of Travel Documents:

A. There are expatriates of unknown identity who live in some countries without travel papers, and because of that they are facing problems. To avoid that situation the conference recommends that [our] embassies and consulates abroad collect information about these people to ascertain the fact that they are Yemeni citizens. This information would then be sent to [the Ministry of the] Interior along with an application requesting that these individuals be issued permits so they can return to Yemen as soon as possible and complete the measures of obtaining their passports in Yemen.

B. Regarding expatriates who had left Yemen with permits to go on a pilgrimage, with passes or with temporary passports that are now expired and who were forced by circumstances to delay their return to the homeland--because they wanted to stay abroad to work, for example--the conference recommends that [our] embassies and consulates provide these people with passports or permits so they can return to Yemen and complete the measures for obtaining their passports in accordance with the laws and regulations that are in effect.

C. The conference recommends that Yemeni expatriates, who have other nationalities and whose viability in their business requires that they acquire [Yemeni] passports to preserve their interests, are to be dealt with in accordance with the Travel Papers and Citizenship Law.

To remedy the problem of the children of expatriates whose mothers are not Yemeni citizens and who are facing difficulties in obtaining residence in some countries, the conference recommends that our embassies abroad issue these children passports in accordance with the laws that are in effect.

Regarding the applications made by some expatriates requesting that their wives and dependent children in Yemen be added to their passports so that these wives and children can join their expatriate husbands abroad, the conference recommends that Yemeni embassies abide by the law and by the instructions that are issued in this regard by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2. Civil Affairs

A. Regarding Yemeni women who marry foreigners and the applications made by mothers requesting that in case of the father's death, [they be allowed] to bring their children to Yemen and to obtain permanent residence for all of them in Yemen, the conference recommends that that question be dealt with in accordance with the system and the law.

B. Regarding questions about identity cards, family cards and vital statistics for which the Civil Affairs Administration and the Civil Register are responsible, the conference recommends the necessity of expediting the establishment of a universal civil registration system in all our embassies and consulates. Embassies have to notify Yemeni communities [abroad] that it is necessary for them to expedite registration of their vital statistics in the civil registers in accordance with Law No 132 for 1976 and in accordance with instructions that were issued in that regard.

3. Serving in Civil Defense:

A. Regarding expatriates' issues that have to do with serving [in the country's] national defense, the conference recommends that the ideal method here lies in the proper application of the law and familiarity with its provisions. Special measures for implementing the law are to be simplified and clarified. The conference recommends that the children of expatriates attending schools, institutes and universities abroad be treated like their fellow students inside Yemen.

B. Out of a sense of national responsibility for defending the homeland and its sovereignty and independence, the conferees proclaim their total insistence upon and their adherence to the National Defense Service Law.

4. Education:

In the area of education the conference recommends that authorized agencies support and establish schools for the children of expatriates in their adopted countries, especially in those countries where Arabic is not spoken. Teachers and textbooks are to be provided in the context of the Ministry of Education's plan, and efforts with the countries in question are to be coordinated to facilitate the enrollment of expatriates' children in schools and universities [there]. The Ministry of Education is to give priority in awarding scholarships from fraternal and friendly countries to the children of expatriates, in accordance with the conditions for these scholarships.

The conference also recommends that authorized agencies coordinate efforts with countries for the purpose of providing opportunities for expatriates who wish to continue their education at all levels of education.

5. Work and Workers

Regarding questions about work and workers, the conference recommends that authorized agencies make an effort to intensify, develop and establish vocational and technical training institutes for the purpose of raising the standards of Yemeni workers so as to make those standards consistent with the needs of our development plans. Authorized agencies [are urged] to rely on these institutions, to limit [the number of] foreign workers and to upgrade the efficiency of Yemeni workers inside Yemen and abroad.

6. Eliminating Court Cases:

Regarding expatriates' issues that have to do with the courts and with justice, the conference recommends that the Ministry of Justice attend to the cases of

expatriates, whether these be cases that have to do with expatriates' rights and obligations or cases that require intervention by the courts [such as] cases and problems that occur when the expatriates are abroad. Such cases are not to become complicated and protracted, and they are to be settled in accordance with legal papers and documents that conform to the provisions of honorable Islamic laws. Expatriates are to be notified of law suits that are being brought against them so they can either defend themselves or hire attorneys to defend them.

7. Taxes and Customs

Regarding taxes and customs, the conference recommends that authorized agencies deal with these matters in accordance with the instructions of the political leadership. These instructions require that more facilities and additional care be given to expatriates. They require that measures be completed in the first port of entry and also at the last exit point. Expatriates are not to be subjected to more than one inspection point.

8. Regarding expatriates whose commercial and agricultural property and real estate is confiscated and who are not allowed to take their funds out of some countries, the conference recommends that authorized agencies in the state conduct inquiries and negotiations with the authorized agencies in the countries in question to allow Yemeni expatriates to transfer their funds to their country.

Regarding the fact that some expatriates in some countries have been denied the right to engage in commercial activity because new laws were issued in those countries that do not allow them to pursue commercial activity, the conference recommends that this problem be dealt with by authorized agencies, by diplomatic means and by coordination councils.

9. Developing the Association of Expatriates:

The conference recommends that the General Association for Expatriates be developed in accordance with its enormous responsibility and in the context of the outcome of actions by the committee that was charged by the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, to study the association's organizational and legal conditions. The association is to perform its role fully in serving expatriates and their causes inside the country and abroad. Necessary laws are to be issued, and the establishment of an official agency that would complement the association is to be considered.

10. The conference recommends that Yemeni Airways offer expatriates easy terms in their travel from and to the homeland.

11. The conference recommends that the possibilities of establishing a bank for Yemeni expatriates be considered.

12. The conference commends the major role played by the state in [the services] it offers Yemeni expatriates in some countries. It provides them with transportation from those countries to the homeland as well as assistance and care.

The conference also urges authorized agencies to provide transportation from those countries to remaining expatriates according to previous instructions issued by the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

General Recommendations

1. The conference commends the informational role played by the media in keeping Yemeni expatriates informed and attached to their homeland. The media accomplished that by means of cultural celebrations and other events it organized in other areas of information. The conference also urges authorized agencies to appoint information attaches in those countries where none exist, provided that the information effort be intensified so that information can play its full role in enlightening expatriates and keeping them attached to their homeland and informed about the changes and accomplishments that are taking place in the development of the country.

2. The conference urges the Supreme Council of Youth and Sports to try to provide young people who are children of expatriates with the opportunity to participate in youth camps and to encourage and support youth activities outside the homeland.

8592

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NEED FOR RIYAL DEVALUATION DISCUSSED

Sanaa' AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 May 82 p 6

[Article by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Saqqaf, lecturer in economics and finance at the University of Sanaa': "An Appeal to Devalue the Riyal"]

[Text] . As we know, the exchange rate of the Yemeni riyal is linked to the U.S. dollar and the relationship of the riyal to the dollar has remained firm during the last 10 years. However, the annual rate of inflation in Yemen has been twice the annual rate of inflation in the United States. This naturally has led to an increase in the exchange rate of the riyal in relation to the dollar (and the other currencies) without the existence of anything in Yemen's economy which has provided backing for this increase in its exchange rate. Therefore the exchange rate of the riyal is higher than it should be, and it must be lowered in order to revive the Yemeni economy, as we will be illustrating below:

Before entering into a brief analysis of the means by which a lowering of the riyal's exchange rate would be able to contribute to reviving and channeling production and economic activity in general [in Yemen], I would like to propose that the various banking apparatuses--especially the Central Bank [of Yemen] in conjunction with the Central Planning Bureau, the Ministry of Economy and Industry, and some university specialists--conduct a feasibility study concerning devaluation of the riyal, how much it should be devalued, how this devaluation should be carried out, and the effects which will result from this. In particular, it might be useful to hold an academic symposium in which reports would be presented concerning the effect of devaluation on the level of prices, the work force, the balance of trade, private capital transfers, the pattern of consumption, the wage level, state revenues, foreign loans, etc.

The experience of [various] nations indicates that devaluation of a currency leads to an inflationary trend which results in a rise in the level of the prices. If devaluation of the riyal is inevitable, then the country will find no better opportunity to carry this out than under the present circumstances. Right now prices are stable, and in fact some of them are even going down. Also, Yemen's controlling and administrative bodies have developed to the extent to permit them to supervise and oversee price levels. In any case, inflation will be the principal negative effect of the process of

devaluation of the riyal. But this effect would be minimal at the present time. Now let us review the benefits which devaluation of the riyal would bring to the various sectors of Yemen's economy.

1. Effect on Balance of Trade

After the country had enjoyed a surplus in its balance of payments, the situation reversed itself during the last few years and now the country is suffering from an increasing deficit in its balance of payments. This has forced the country to withdraw about half of its reserve funds and to take out a few loans for the purpose of financing this deficit in balance of payments. So we have a problem, and we must find a suitable solution to it. Devaluation of the riyal will lead to a decrease in the volume of imports of goods and services and to an increase in the exports of goods and services. The sequence of these economic occurrences can be detailed in a separate study. However, I am able to say that devaluation of the riyal will cause the prices of foreign commodities and services to go up as far as Yemeni consumers are concerned, and this will decrease their demand for them. On the other hand, the prices of Yemeni exports will go down as far as foreign consumers are concerned, and this will increase their demand for them. Naturally the extent of the increase in exports and decrease in imports depends on many factors, including marginal propensities, price elasticity, and income elasticity in the economy.

2. Effect on Consumption

Yemeni citizens have been inclined toward increasing consumption, especially of imported goods. But when devaluation leads to a decrease in their purchasing power, this will greatly restrict the trend toward consumption which the country has been witnessing. Also, the rise in prices of imported goods will cause Yemeni consumers to partially refrain from buying them. This will lessen our dependence on imported goods and perhaps lead to replacing them with domestic goods wherever possible. Devaluation of the currency will, in addition to leading to control of consumption, bring about protection for domestic products. This will enhance the ability of our economy to take care of our domestic needs and enable us to achieve more self-sufficiency.

3. Effect on Production

Our domestic products suffer from the fact that they are too costly [to produce], basically because of the high wages of our work force. This has constituted a major obstacle to the establishment of some industries and the continuation of [production of] some agricultural products, animal products, and products made by craftsmen. We are not saying that the average annual wage of Yemeni workers is high in absolute terms. However it is very high in relation to our low level of productivity and meager production. We can confirm this fact by pointing out that the average annual wage of Yemeni workers in the industrial sector, for example, is 400 percent what the average per capita income in the country is. This percentage is only 200 percent in Korea, 220 percent in Turkey, 330 percent in Kenya, and 430 percent in India. So if we want to develop industrial production, agricultural production, and other types of production, we will need to correct the imbalance

which exists in the elements of production, especially the [wages of the] work force which represent about half of the cost of production. This correction will tend to enable Yemeni products to undergo further expansion and development due to the relative decrease in their cost, and this will make it easier to market them domestically and internationally.

4. Effect on Attracting Capital

During the last few years we have seen a great deal of Yemeni capital flow out of the country since its owners were seeking to put it in deposits paying high interest rates. Another phenomenon has also surfaced, and it is the fact that Yemeni expatriates are starting to send only the necessary minimum of their wages back to Yemen to support their families, whereas they are sending the rest of their money to banks in Europe in order to earn money from the high interest rates. Devaluation of the riyal will effectively increase the [riyal's] interest rate, even though nominally there will be no such increase. Also, owners of capital will benefit from the new difference in the exchange rate. In addition to this, remittances by foreigners working in Yemen total more than 2 billion riyals, and it is expected that this figure will go even higher. But devaluation of the riyal will lessen the negative effect of these remittances since it will make the value of these remittances in foreign currencies less than it is at present.

5. Effect on State Revenues

I expect that a 10 percent devaluation of the riyal will lead to an increase of approximately 1 billion riyals in the state's revenues. Most of this will be the result of an increase in customs revenues. Thus the state will benefit from this process of devaluation.

In conclusion I would only like to repeat my appeal that a symposium be held which would involve the participation by various bodies in the study of this matter. I personally am prepared to participate in studying one of the effects which will result from devaluation of the Yemeni currency. There is no doubt that this measure would be appropriate at this time because of the conditions of austerity which prevail in some sectors at present and because we are at the stage of the beginning of the second 5-year plan. This matter should be brought up generally and studied. But we should bear in mind that a continuation of the deficit in our balance of payments will lead to a monetary crisis which will necessitate, as a partial solution to the crisis, devaluation of our currency. But taking this measure at that point will be less effective than if we take the initiative to put the measure into effect right now. As I have already said, the matter requires detailed study. May God grant us success.

9468

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RELATIVE POPULATION DENSITIES REPORTED

Sanaa' AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 May 82 p 6

[Article by Dr 'Abbas Fadil al-Sa'di, assistant professor in the Geography Department in the Faculty of Arts [at the University of Sanaa']: "The Disparity in the Relative Distribution of Yemen's Population in the Years 1975 and 1981"]

[Text] This article represents part of an extensive study dealing with Yemen's population distribution which one of the universities in the Arab world will soon be publishing.

The regional disparity in the growth rates of [Yemen's] population is generally a factor in the disparity in the relative distribution of the population among the regions constituting the country. In order to measure the change in the relative population distribution of the regions between the time of the two censuses, the population percentages of these areas from each census are ranked according to size and the percentages of the first census are subtracted from the percentages of the second census. The difference between the two sets of figures shows the degree of change which has taken place during the time period between the two censuses. In other words, when one ranks the relative population distributions [of the areas] in each census according to size, the difference between the rankings in the two censuses shows the degree of change in the relative population distribution.

The accompanying illustration shows that, in the case of five provinces--the Provinces of Sanaa', Hajjah, Sa'dah, Ma'rib, and al-Jawf--the relative percentage of the population distribution increased between 1975 and 1981. In the case of the other provinces, the relative percentage of population decreased, with the exception of the Province of al-Bayda', where the percentage was the same in both censuses.

The decrease in these percentages, as well as the disparity and fluctuation in relative population distribution between the dates of the two censuses, are attributable to internal migration and different rates of normal [population] increase, or they are attributable to modifications in administrative borders. The factor of internal migration plays a big role in the disparity of population distribution. In the case of some provinces, certain negative factors are compelling the population to leave and go to population centers which are attracting them, especially the big cities.

Although the Province of Ta'izz had the largest percentage of the population in the 1975 census (18.8 percent), the Province of Sanaa' came to have the largest percentage by 1981. In that year its percentage was 20.5 percent, and Ta'izz thus ended up in second place. The Province of al-Jawf was at the bottom of the list in both censuses.

The largest increase during this time period between the two censuses was shown by the Province of Sanaa', which increased 2.3 percent. The second largest increase was shown by the Province of Hajjah, which increased 2.2 percent. This clear increase in the percentages of the two above-mentioned provinces during this time period was at the expense of the percentages of the other provinces, especially the two Provinces of al-Hudaydah and Ibb which experienced the greatest relative decreases in population.

The increase in percentages of population of the Province of Sanaa' and others between 1975 and 1981 means that there has been a concentration of population as a result of the increase in internal migration to these provinces as well as due to other factors. In order to show the concentration of the population and its relation to the increase in the [population] growth, one can compute the indicator for each census date. It is computed by dividing 100 by the total number of regions (100 divided by 11); the result is then subtracted from the population percentage of each province in each census; a plus or minus sign is then added to the result [as published]; and the result of this is the indicator which one desires to compute. The result of these indicators was 33.6 percent and 32.1 percent for 1975 and 1981, respectively. What this indicates is that there is a concentration of population. This concentration of population decreased slightly by the second census from what it was during the time of the first census. This requires redistribution of the population. This would be done by means of the "redistribution indicator." What this means is the percentage of the country's population at the end of [a given] time period which one desires to redistribute among the regions in order to achieve the distribution which existed at the beginning of this time period. One can compute this indicator by means of subtracting the relative population percentage of a region in the first census from the relative population percentage [of the region] in the second census, and then either a plus or a minus sign is added to this difference. The result represents the redistribution indicator. The redistribution indicator for Yemen for the period from 1975 to 1981 is 5.5 percent (whereas the indicator for Iraq during the period from 1957 to 1965 was about 5.9 percent).

By means of this indicator one can arrive at the size of the population which needs to be redistributed at the end of the time period. This is arrived at by multiplying the indicator of the time period (between the two censuses) by the size of the population at the end of that time period, and then dividing it by 100. When this equation is applied to Yemen, we find that, during the period from 1975 to 1981, the size of the population which needed to be redistributed in order to achieve some sort of homogeneity of distribution in Yemen was about 294,000 persons. This explains the existence of population concentrations in some areas at the expense of other areas. Although Yemen's population distribution shows that its population is generally scattered and lives in small settlements, the fact that so many persons need to

be redistributed actually is attributable to the two factors of normal [population] increase and internal migration.

Yemen's relative population distribution according to areas as of 1975 gives a clear picture of the disparity of its population distribution. The Province of Ta'izz had the largest percentage of the country's population, which was 18.8 percent. The Province of Sanaa' was in second place, the Province of Ibb was in third place, and the Province of al-Hudaydah occupied fourth place. But by 1981 the largest concentration of population turned out to be in the Province of Sanaa', which had more than a fifth of the country's population (20.5 percent). The Province of Ta'izz was in second place, having more than 18 percent of Yemen's population. The two Provinces of Ibb and al-Hudaydah occupied third and fourth place, respectively, which means that they had the same ranking as in 1975.

The reason why the above-mentioned regions are becoming crowded in terms of population is attributable to the fact that they have Yemen's largest cities and serve to attract the population. The Province of Sanaa' has the capital city, and this city has various centers of services and economic activity. The Province of Ta'izz is considered to be the second most important province in Yemen after the Province of Sanaa'. It is the city of Ta'izz, which was formerly the capital of Yemen and which is one of Yemen's large cities. Consequently, the volume of various services and economic activities in Ta'izz is no less than that of Sanaa'. The Province of Ibb is considered to be one of the most important agricultural areas in Yemen. It has about 2,559 agricultural villages and thus is in second place after the Province of Sanaa' in terms of number of villages. These villages are noted for the fact that they are close to each other and thickly populated. This province is called the "green province."

The Province of al-Hudaydah has the second largest city in Yemen in terms of size of population and business activity. It has Yemen's largest port, and this port, along with its commercial installations and establishments, is considered to be one of the most attractive areas for people to come to to find work. According to 1975/76 statistics, the Province of al-Hudaydah accounted for 25.6 percent of Yemen's GNP.

The four above-mentioned provinces contain more than two-thirds of Yemen's population. If we add to them the Provinces of Hajjah, Dhamar, and al-Mahwit, we are including over 90 percent of the population. The population is less in the other regions because of the harsh environmental conditions there. Most of these other areas are hot desert areas with barren soil. What population there is there is clustered around springs and wells and is located in the inundation areas of some of the wadis. The Provinces of Sa'dah, al-Bayda', Ma'rib, and al-Jawf, which constitute the eastern and northern parts of the country and total half of the country's area, account for only about one-tenth of the country's population. This explains why the population percentages in those areas are so low and also explains why the population is so scattered there. This indicates that there is an irregularity (or lack of regularity) in [Yemen's] population distribution. This is something which is confirmed by this article. It has become obvious that there exists a great disparity in the relative population distribution between the regions which are crowded in terms of population and those which are lacking in terms of population.

